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Despatch No. 1 confidential Air Mail

BRITISH LEGATION, PANAMA .

6th january 1948

gir,

with reference to my telegram No. 1 of 5th January, regarding Jewish illegal immigration into palestine, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of the note from the Ministry of Foreign Relations announcing the withdrawal of registration from the s.s. PAN YORK and the s.s. PAN CRESCENT, together with a copy of my reply thereto.

It is a measure of the manner in which the Ministry have handled this question that though they refer to my notes nos. 141 and 142, they have evidently not read at least the latter with any care, in view of their remarks about the s.s. TRADE WINDS, PADUCAH and NORTHLANDS. I have not as yet informed them of the confiscation of these ships by the Government of palestine mentioned in your despatch no. 129 of December 24th, as to do so seemed likely to provoke a further outburst which, though obviously unjustifiable, seemed likely further to exacerbate a difficult situation.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador in washington.

> I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your most obedient humble Servent,

Rt. Hon. Clement R. Attlee, M.P., etc., etc., etc., Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

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Panama, Enero 3 de 1948.

Señor Ministro:

Tengo el agrado de referirme a las atentas notas de Vuestra Excelencia números 141 y 142 de 30 de diciembre último, por las cuales se sirve reiterar la solicitud del ilustrado gobierno inglés, en el sentido de que se proce da a la cancelación de las patentes de navegación paname-ma, correspondientes a los barcos "PRESIDENTE WARFIELD", "TRADE WINDS", "PADUCAH", "NORTHALANDS", "PANYORK" y "PANCHESCENT".

Excelencia junto con la presente copia autenticada de la Resolución Nº 1530, dictada por conducto del Ministerio de Hacienda y Tesoro, por la cual se cancelan defintivamente, de acuerdo con las disposiciones que rigen la materia, las inscripciones en la marina mercante de Panamá de las naves denominadas "PANCRESCENT" y "PANYORK", que figuran registra das como de propiedad de F. B. Shipping Co. S. A.

Con respecto a los barcos "PRESIDENT WARFIELD",
"TRADE WINDS", "PADUCHH", y "MORTHALANDS", cúmpleme manifes
tar a Vuestra Excelencia que aún no se ha podido establecer
de modo fehaciente la ilegalidad de las actividades que se
le señalan a dichas naves; sin embargo tan pronto como que
se cuenten con las pruebas documentales requeridas por la

ley para establecer

Su Excelencia
John Dee Greenway,
Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario
de Gran Bretaña,
Ciudad.

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ley para establecer la causal de comercio ilícito que se imputa a los referidos barcos, el Ministerio competente de mi Gobierno procederá a cancelar las matrículas de las susodichas naves.

En cuanto a las observaciones hechas por Vuestra Excelencia sobre el Comunicado de Prensa expedido por este Ministerio con fecha 18 de octubre del año próximo pasado, deseo manifestarle que este comunicado se basa en los informes que posee la Cancillería sobre las actividades de los expresados barcos, y su finalidad consistía en dar a conocer el contenido y verdadero alcance de la ley panameña aplicable al caso de tales naves.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para testimoniarle las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Mario de Diego, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

TRANSLATION

Ministry of Foreign Relations Diplomatic Department

D.P. No. 20. Panama, January 3, 1948.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I am pleased to refer to your Excellency's courteous notes Nos. 141 and 142 of December 30, in which you take the opportunity to repeat the request of the enlightened covernment of Great Britain to the effect that panamanian Registry of the vessels PRESIDENT WARFIELD, TRADE WINDS, PADUCAH, NORTHLANDS, PANYORK and PANCRESCENT be cancelled.

In this respect, permit me to forward to your Excellency herewith a copy of Resolution No. 1530, duly authenticated, issued by the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, cancelling definitively, in accordance with the provisions governing the matter, the registry in the panamanian Merchant Marine of the vessels bearing the names PANCRESCENT and PANYORK, which are listed in the respective entries as the property of the F.B. Shipping Co., Inc.

As regards the vessels PRESIDENT WARFIELD, TRADE WINDS, PADUCAH, and NORTHLANDS, I wish to inform your Excellency that, up to the present, it has not been possible to obtain authentic proof of the illegal activities with which these vessels are charged. Nevertheless, as soon as documentary proof is available, as required by law, attesting to the illicit trade which is advanced against the said vessels, the competent Department of my Government will proceed with the cancellation of the registry of the above-named vessels.

In respect of the remarks made by your Excellency regarding the press release issued by this Ministry dated October 18th 1947, I wish to state that this communique was based on reports in the possession of this Chancellery regarding the activities of the said vessels, and the result simed at was to make public the text and scope of panamanian Law applicable in the case of the vessels named.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

> (Sgd.) Mario de Diego Minister for Foreign Relations

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Copia.

REPUBLICA DE PANAMA - ORGANO EJECUTIVO NACIONAL MINISTERIO DE HACIENDA Y TESORO

RESOLUCION No. 1530

Ramo: Marina Mercante PANAMA. Enero de 194

#### EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA

#### Considerando:

QUE per informaciones oficiales obtenidas del Sr. Cónsul de los Estados Unidos de América, encargado de los intereses consulares de Panamá en Estambul, Turquía, se ha obtenido la prueba de que les barcos denominados PAN CRESCENT y PANYORK. del registro y bandera panameños, se dedican al transporte ilícito de pasajeros;

Que en esta ocasión tomaron a su bordo en EL BOSFORO, con destino a La Palestina, las siguientes cantidades de pasajeros dandesti-

PAN YORK: 2365 hombres; 1914 mujeres y 1607 niños; PAN CRESCENT: 2352 hombres, 2924 mujeres y 987 niños;

Que de acuerdo con las Patentes de Navegación respectivas esos barcos no están habilitados para conducir pasajeros;

Que tal hecho constituye comercio ilícito, por lo que procede la cancelación del registro panameños de escs barcos, de acuerdo con lo establecido por el artículo primero de la Ley 54 de 1926;

#### RESUELVE:

Cancelanse Definitivamente, de acuerdo con el Art. primero de la Ley 54 de 1925 las inscripciones del Registro de la Marina Mercante Nacional de las naves denominadas PAN CRESCENT y PAN YORK, que figuran registrados como de propiedad de la F.B. SHIPPING Co., S.A.;

Se declaran canceladas asimismo las Patentes Provisionales de navegación de esos barcos cuyos detalles y caracteristicas se expresan a continuación;

PAN CRESCENT: Patente Provisional No. 868 de 25 de Abril de 1927, Casco de acero, construído en el año de 1901 en Newport News, Virginia, Estados Unidos de América;

PAN YORK: Patente Provisional No. 869-NY de 5 de Mayo de 1947, casco de acero, construído en el año de 1901 por Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., de Newport News. Virginia, Estados Unidos de América.

REGISTRESE. COMUNIQUESE Y PUBLIQUESE.

(Fdo.) ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ

El Ministro de Hacienda y Tesoro,

(Fdo.) Juan R. Morales.

Es copia auténtica de su original. Panamá, 2 de Enero de 1948. (Fdo.) N. E.

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TRANSLATION.

#### REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FOVER

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TREASURY

Resolution No. 1530

Section: Merchant Marine Panama. January. 194

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

#### CONSIDERING:

THAT from official information obtained from the Consul of the United States of America, in charge of Panama's consular interests at Istanbul, Turkey, proof has been adduced that the vessels PAN CRESCENT AND PANYORK, of Panamanian registry, are engaged in the illicit transportation of passengers:

THAT on this occasion took on board in THY BOSPHUPOS, with Palentine as their destination, the following number of clandestine passengers:

PAN YORK: 2365 men: 1914 women and 1607 children; PAN CRESCENT: 2353 men. 2924 women and 987 children;

That in accordance with the respective Registry of the said vessels. they are not licenced to transport passengers;

That such an act constitutes illicit trade, as a result of which the Panamanian Registry of those vessels is hereby cancelled in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 1 of Law 54 of 1926.

#### RESOLVES:

To cancel definitively. in accordance with Article 1 of Law 54 of 1936 the Registry in the National Merchant Marine of the vessels bearing the names PAN CRUSCENT and PAN YORK, which are registered as the property of the F.B. SHIPPING CO., INC.

The Provisional Licences of Navigation issued to the said vessels, specifications of which are given below are also declared as cancelled.

PAN CRESCENT: Provisional Licence No. 868 dated April 25. 1927, Hull: steel; constructed in the year 1901 at Newport News. Virginia. United States of America;

PAN WORK: Provisional Licence No. 869-NY of May 5, 1947, Hull: steel; constructed in the year 1901 by the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., of Newport News. Virginia. United States of America.

To be registered, communicated and published.

(Sgd.) ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ

The Minister of Finance and Treasury. (Sgd.) JUAN R. MORALES.

Certified to be a true copy of the original.
Panama, January 2, 1948.

(Sgd.) N.E.

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**]**-

No. 3.

BRITISH LEGATION, PANAMA.

5th January 1948

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your excellency s note No. Dp.20 of 3rd January in which you were good enough to inform me that the panamanian registration of the s.s. PAN CRESCENT and the s.s. PAN YORK has now been definitely cancelled.

I am most grateful to your excellency for the promptness with which so soon after taking over your new duties as Minister for Foreign Relations you have been able to settle this vexed question.

with regard, however, to your Excellency's references to the s.s. TRADE WINDS, PADUCAH, NORTHLANDS and PRESIDENT WARFIELD, may I refer you to my note No. 142 of pecember 30th in which particulars were given of the illegal transport to palestine of a total of 5,060 immigrants by the three first names: the PRESIDENT WARFIELD being, as stated in my note under reference, of Mondurarean Registry.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest consideration,
Monsieur le Ministre,
Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

(sgd.)

J.D. GREENWAY.

His Excellency Sr. Don Mario de Diego, Minister for Foreign Relations, Panama, R.P.

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DEPARTMENTAL D. 2.25 p.m. 12th January, 1948

Cypher /OTP

## FROM LAS PALMAS TO FURFIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul No. 1 12th January, 1948

R. 3.45 p.m. 12th January, 1948

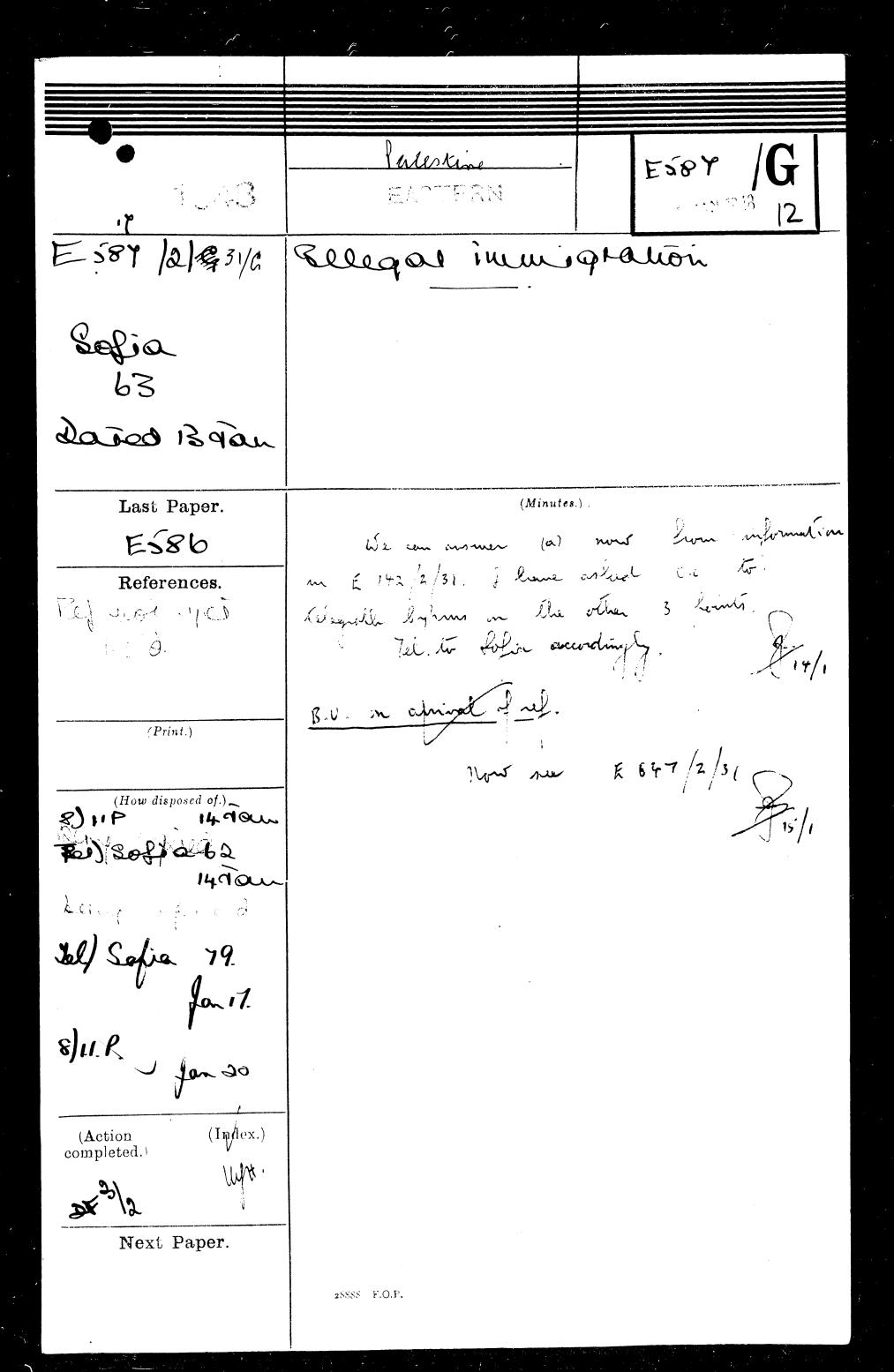
## CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1.

Panamanian vessel Medina sailed for Genoa 9th January with cargo of sugar from Cuba. Carried more rafts than necessary. Gibraltar advised.

2. I have no means of communicating with Madrid nor Teneriffe.

PPP



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DIPLOMATIC

## FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett. D. 5.43 p.m. 13th January, 1948.

R. 6.15 p.m. 15th January, 1948. 13th January, 1948.

#### IMMEDIATE

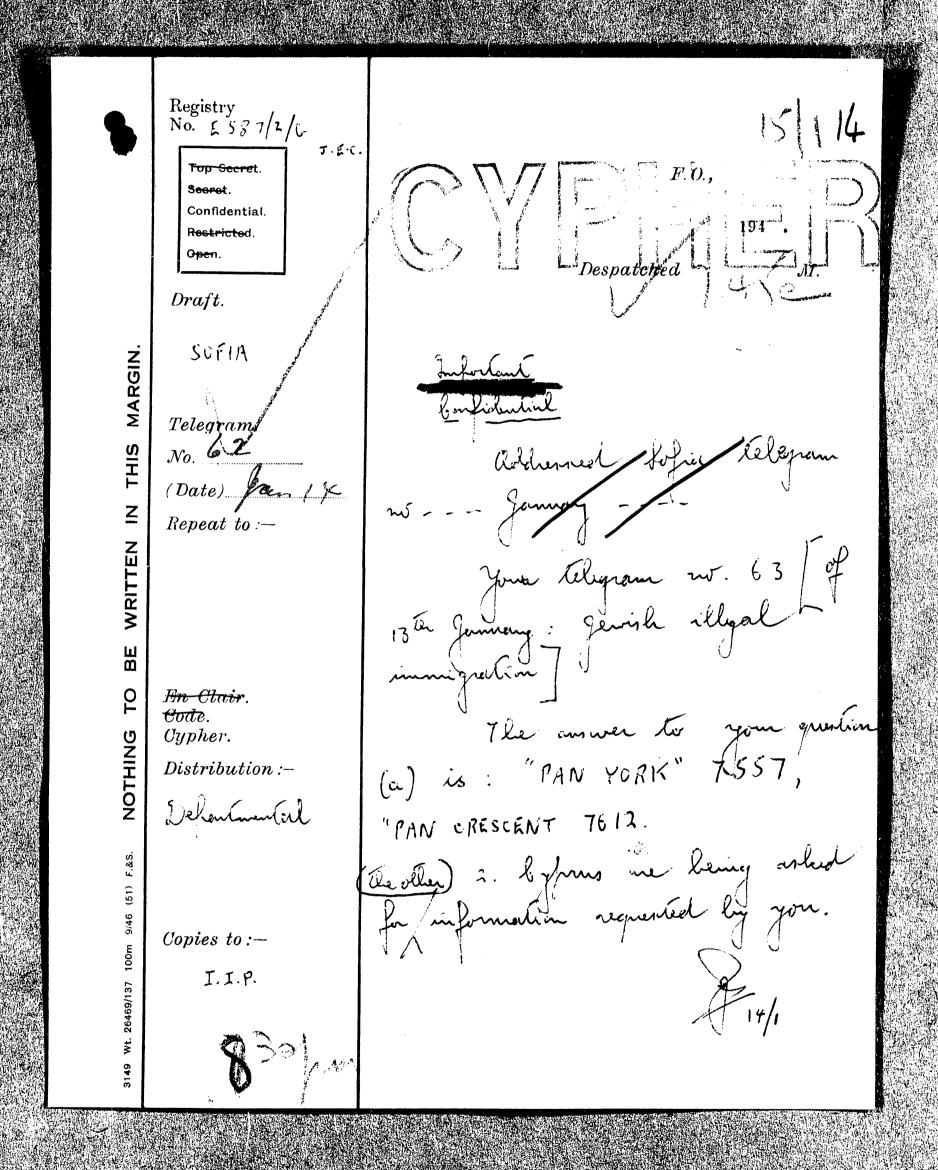
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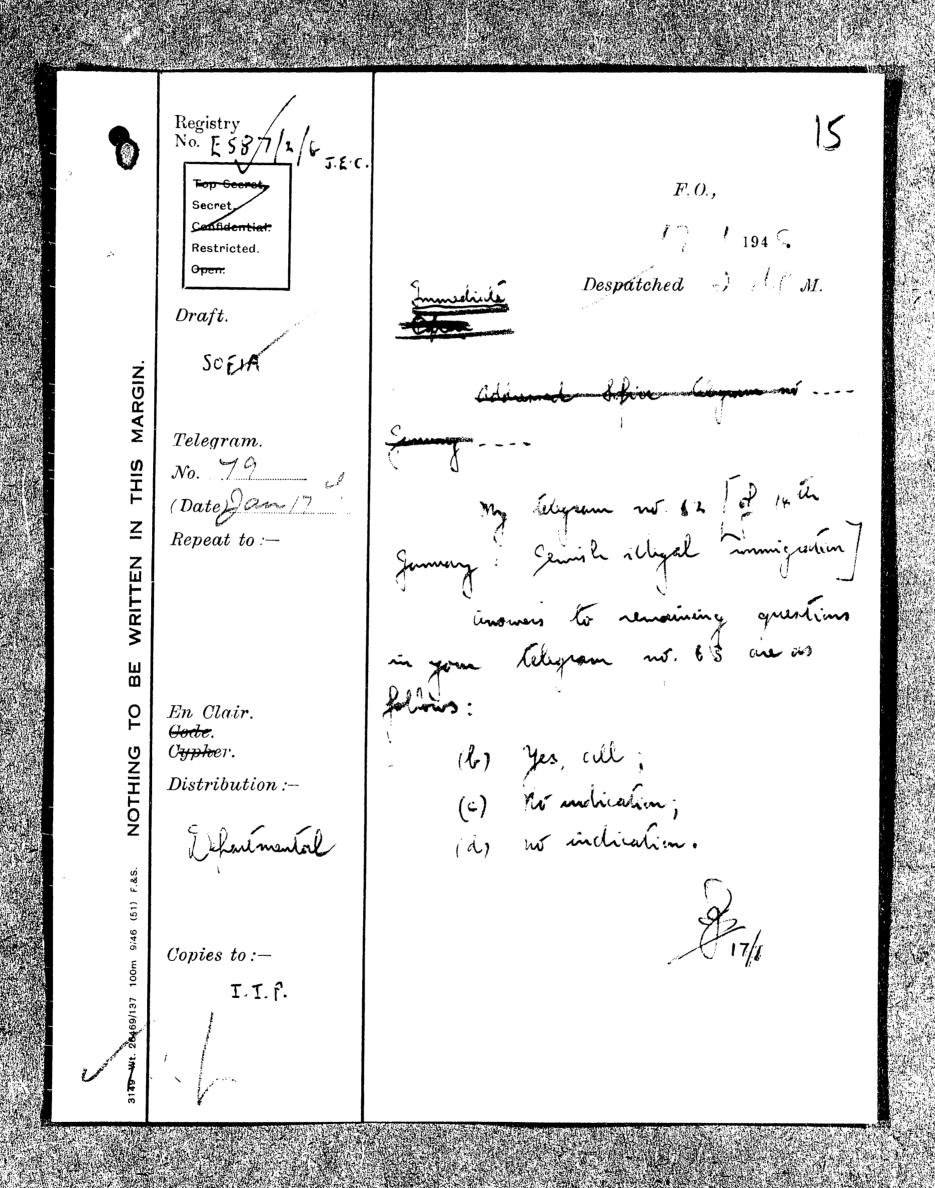
My telegram No. 59.

Illegal Immigration to Palestine.

I shall shortly be proposing lines which our reply might take. Meanwhile I suggest immediate telegram be sent to Cyprus asking urgently for information on the following points

- How many passengers were carried by "Pan Cresent" and "Pan Yerk" respectively.
- Whether it can be established that the majority if not all embarked at Bourgas.
- Whether there is any indication or the reverse that they ever had Panamanian visas.
- Whether any Jews of Bulgarian residence were in the party.





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#### DEPARTMENTAL

## FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA

No. 79

17th January, 1948

D. 2.26 p.m. 17th January, 1948

## IMMEDIATE

My telegram No. 62 [of 14th January: Jewish illegal immigration].

Answers to remaining questions in your telegram No. 63 are as follows:

Yes, all; No indication; No indication.

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Green.

Jpher/419 2587/2/6.

Darried Warrell

Confidential.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA.

No.63. 14th January, 1948. p.: 7.45 a.m. 15th January, 1945.

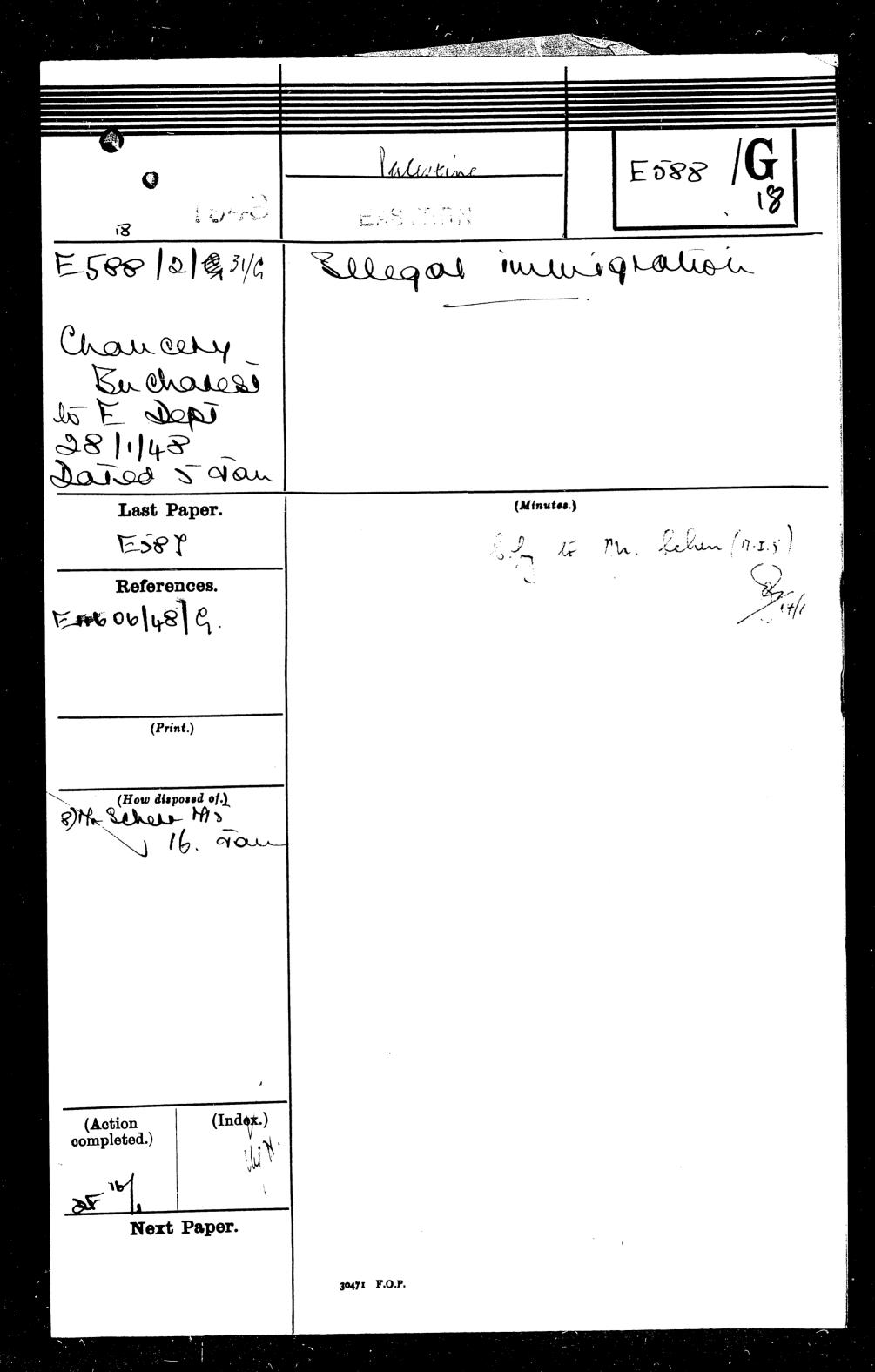
D Post W. Confidential.

Your telegram No. C3 [of 13th January: Jewish illegal immigration].

The answer to your question (a) is: "Pan York" 7587, "Pan Crescent 7612.

2. Cyprus are being asked for the other information requested by you.

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SECRET

British Legation 5 Bucharest.

28/1/48

5th January, 1948.

Dear Department,

Your (E 11606/48/G) of 11th December about illegal Jewish immigration.

Nicolaos Zeller and Grossman are not known to us.

The vessel "Lola", ex "Tuskar", 492 tons net register, was under the Swedish flag until 1941. She was seized at Constantsa during the Spanish civil war for gun-running and she was detained there until 1941 at least. She was not, to the best of our knowledge, ever outside the harbour of Constantsa between 1938 and 1941.

During the war she was taken over by the Germans and went to the Aegean. We do not know her present whereabouts or ownership.

We are copying this letter to the Chanceries at Athens and Rome.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.



Eastern Department, Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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Colonial Office, 2\
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
Westminster,
S.W.1.

13 🔈 January 1948.

SECRET

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My dear Cable.

I enclose, for your use, a spare copy of Palestine C.I.D. Report No.100/540/GS, dealing with s.s. Maria Christina (alias Lo Tafhidunu), which arrived at Haifa carrying illegal Jewish immigrants, on the 23rd December.

Yours sincerely, land Holmer.

(P. C. Holmer)

J. E. CABLE, ESQ.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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COPY NO. 27

100/540/GS.

TOP SECRET

Headquarters,
The Palestine Police Force,
(Criminal Investigation Department)
Jerusalem.

18 December, 1947.

CHIEF SECRETARY (2)

. Copies to - D.S.O. G.S.I. M.L.O. N.L.O.

S.O.I.L.E.M. (1) S.I.O.R.A.F. (1) Major The Master of Forbes (1)

At 1.30 p.m. on 22nd December; 1947 a motor schooner carrying illegal immigrants was intercepted by H.M. ships some sixty miles north-east of Port Said. The vessel was kept under surveillance until 8 a.m. the following day when, at a position off Carmel Point, it was boarded by a naval party. The boarding party met with no resistance from the immigrants. immigrants.

Port and tied up at the carge jetty. At approximately 10.20 a.m. on 23rd December disembarkation of the passengers commenced. Transhipment to the "Ocean Vigour" proceeded without incident, the operation being completed by 1 p.m. and shortly afterwards the transport sailed for Cyprus. Final breakdown of the transhipment is as follows:

		Male	Female	Children
	To "Ocean Vigour"	401	301	149
	To Government Hospital, Haifa for treatment	1	11	1
Relatives of the sick to Athlit Clearance Camp		11	3	4
		413	315	154

Total - 832

The immigrants were mainly of Polish, Rumanian and Mungarian origin and appeared healthy and well cared for. Cursory interrogation on the quayside elicited the information that many of them were previously in UNRRA camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. The camp at Polese in Italy was frequently mentioned. A few of the immigrants stated that they left this camp on the

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ovening of 9th Docombor and, travelled by omnibus to a boach situated near Civitavecchia in Rome Province. Between the hours of 3 and 4 a.m. on 10th Documber they embarked in small boats which took them to the immigrant ship. The vessel was said to have sailed at dawn for Palestine.

With the exception of a film unit comprised of four persons (referred to in the following paragraph) under the direction of Moyor Levin, a correspondent of Overseas News Agency, none of the immigrants was found to be in possession of a valid passport for Palestine. A number of them, however, carried a miscollaneous assortment of identity cards and party membership cards which, togother with various other documents recovered from the immigrants and the vossel, are being examined at this Department and will form the basis of a further report.

The following four persons comprised the film unit referred to above:-

#### Moy r Lovin

Born 7.10.1805; U.S. passport No.17943, valid until 17.10.49. Visa for Palestine 29341 dated 21.8.47 - New York. Authority M/2294/45/H, valid for single journey. Correspondent for Overseas News gency. Director of group.

## Bortrand Hosso

Born 10.6.1920; French passport No.119835, volid until 17.5.49. Visa for Palestine No.85874 issued in Paris 25.10.47. Authority No.M/3715/47/H, valid for single journey. Cameraman.

# Junkiel Icak Michalowicz

Born 5.11.1922; Polish passport No.25640/2/46, valid until 11.12.48. Visa for Palestine Wo. 14016 issued in Prague on 18.11.47. Authority No. M/3798/47/H, valid for single journey only. Film

# .Therese Suzanne Torres

Born 3.0.1920; French passport No.41602, issued in Paris on 11.4.47. Visa for Palestine No. 33241, dated 12.0.47 - Paris. Authority No. M/4195/46/H, vilid for single journey only. Film

Lovin stated that he was producing a motion picture about the present situation of Jows in Europe and their migration to Palastine sponsored by Film Documents Inc., in independent American company. From documents found in his possessi n it would appear th t the project also had the support of the Jewish Agency and the Amsrican Joint Distribution Committee.

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Bertrand Hesse, the cameraman, was provided by the French Pathe News Heel Company under an agreement that, in exchange for his services, Pathe were to receive the news reel rights of material filmed on the voyage to Palestine. Levin and company were found to have obtained visas for Palestine under the pretext of making a film in this country. Their visas detained pending deportation. During their removal offects and film equipment were either lost or stelen. Those effects, some of which may have been forwarded Also attached is a copy of Levin's statement, together his effects. All photographic equipment and exposed

motor schooner of wooden construction of an estimated 300 tons displacement. Her diesel engines, which were substaged ismediately before capture, bore the maker's name and number as follows - "Ansaldo, Genoa. No.265/6/6024". The hold had been converted to carry scaffolding and wooden planking. The wheelhouse and cabin situated towards the stern bore the immigrants "Haganan ship - Unafraid" ("Lo Tafhidunu"). One lifewere carried on the vessel. No crew, wireless equipment, charts or log books were found. Provisions whilst medical equipment was found to be mainly of Italian manufacture.

J. P. I. FFORDE

(J.P.I.Fforde)
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL,
C. I. D.

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Statement of Meyer Levin; aged 42 years; eccupation correspondent; religion Jew.

I am a citizen of the United States of America. I hold a U.S. passport No.17943. During the war I was a film writer-director for the U.S. Office of War Information. I had this post for about aighteen months and in January, 1944 I was transferred to the Psychological Warfare Division under S.H.A.E.F. command. I went to France and remained working in this capacity until August, 1944. I then found there was little for me to de and I accepted a post as war correspondent for the Overseas News Agency. I still hold connexions with Overseas News /Sency to this day. I accepted this post with Overseas News Agency as it enabled me to be of use to my people in some respects. I have always had an interest in the fate of the Jewish pooplo. It was during this poriod when I came into contact with the Jewish survivers in various Eurepean towns that I conceived the idea of making a documentary film of the remnants and their migrations. Before putting this into effect, however, I had an opportunity of proceeding to Palestine to make a film of the life of the Jews there. I came to Palestine in September, 1945, made the film, which was largely a private venture, and returned to the U.S.A. in December, 1943. This film, known as "My Father's House", is now being shown generally. I wrate the film, Mr. Herbert Kline was the director, whilst the two of us were co-producers. I left the U.S.A. in August, 1947 and went to Europe with the intention of making a film of the Jewish remnants and their migrations. The project is my own butis being backed by a small group of people with similar tastes. This group is known as "Film Documents Inc.Ltd.". So far about 7,000 dellars have been expended on the film. The intention of the film is to show the conditions which the Jewish remnants in Europe are experiencing today and to show what drives thom to migrate to Palestine. It is my opinion that any prepaganda value that might have been attached to the film scarcely exists now owing to recent political docisions and to dolay in starting the project. The historical vilue of the film is, I consider, of greater interest and I feel that it would have been a great pity if events had passed by without being recorded. The story, briefly, is one of a young coupled repatriated to Poland from Russia. They find none of their relatives living and for psychological reasons fail to re-establish themselves. They find they are going to have a child and decide that the child must be bern in Palestine. The sequence is that the film shows life in D.P. camps, concentration centres, etc. in Peland, Gzachoslovakia, Germany, Austria and France, culminating with the voyage to Palestine in an illegal immigrant ship. The parts of the young couple are played by my fiancee, Madam Therese Curanno Torres, and Jankiel Icek Michalowicz, who is of Pollsh citizenship. Madum Terres came to Palestine in

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1948 and joined mo here. She played a part in the film " & Father's Louse". Michalowicz is a Polish resident in France. Before joining my group he was an instructor in a Jewish war orph-Ens home situated in the suburos of Paris. My third companion is bertrand Hesse, a cameraman. Mosse was provided by the French Pathe News Reel Company, the agreement being that in exchange for his services Pathe were to receive the news reel rights of material filmed on the voyage to Palestine. Hesse joined my group about three weeks ago and has only been employed in filming material on the actual voyage to Palestine. . The sequence of the migration through durope was filmed by other cameramen who did not accompany me on the verage. I wish to state that I am completely responsible for the three other persons who accompunish no on this voyage. When visus for Palestine were applied for the reason given was that it is necessary to no to Palestine to film compluring section. The intended concluding section word to be the young couple landing from the inchresult ship in Falustine, sermission by the authorities by having bean granted for this in view of the women's secondary. It was an intention then, the fill ing o mion in order to nount the film. I got into contact with the organisers of the illegal transpower by son through the common I not in D.P. common. I was given permission to make a voyage on the condition that I would not reveal the identifies of any contacts or the circumstances of the emback-

Decuments found in Mayor Lavin's personal officets during a search carried out subsequent to the recording of his

COPY

American Joint Distribution Committee, 19, Rue De Tcheran, PARIS (80)

9 September, 1947.

# TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. May r Lavin is producing a metion picture about the present situation of Jows in Europe. This project is spensored by Film Decuments Inc., an and pendent secretain Company. Mr. Povin is known to and more recently as a film producer. We have full that Mr. Lavin will be accorded every facility in carry-

(Sgd.) Jesoph J. Scowertz, GHAIRMAN.

CORY

Agene, Julve Pour La Jelestine,
Burcau De Faris,
85, Avenué De La Grande Arree,
PARIS - XVI.

# TO WHOM IT MAY CONCURN

Mr. Mayor Lovin, of Film Decuments Inc., Now You'r, Le commission de to make a metion picture in Europe for the Jowish Agency for Palestine. This film and of the activities of the Jowish Agency.

It is requested that Mr. Levin be accorded all consible facilities for the accomplishment of his task.

(%.d.) Mark Jarblum,
Representative in France of the
Jewish agency for Palestine.

8....

**TO** 371

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COPY

Agunes Juivo Pour La Palestine, Bureau Do Paris, 143, Avenue De Wegram,
Paris, XVII.

9th Suptember, 1947.

# TO WHOLL IT MAY GOLDWRIN

Mr. Moyor Bavin, connected with Film . Decuments Inc., an independent American Company, is producing a cotion picture report on the situation of Juvs in Murapo.

To ero acquainted with Mr. Levin through his and objectivity are established. To trust that Mr. Levin will be accorded every facility in carrying out his

(3nd.) M. Shertok,

Head of the Pelitical Dupartment

of the Jewish Agency for

Pulestine.

371

Germany, Nov. -

Until now it was not wise to mention Sammy's Fluce by name. But now it may be mentioned, since described it fully in leaflets sent to the author-

Sammy's Place is in the mountains in the vicinity of Innabruck. It looks like a mountain border. It is interesting bleause it is near a border, and it is a place where Jews can cross from one country to another, without the authorities caring to take the trouble to stop them, since it is Palestine, and their own people will take care of them, and they won't be a bother to any country on the way.

of the Braylia - that historic organization which during the past two loars has conducted tens of thousands of Jous across dozons of borders, on route to Palestin. Sammy is a Brayla man. The Brayla is linked to another organization whose name is perhaps more familiar - the Haganah, the chief Jows solf-defence organization of Palestin.

For many months, the Haganah in Palestine has been accused of "collaboration" with the British by the extramint roups who are responsible for the British. This, in spite of the fact that the Haganah the British while conducting unauthorised immigration.

The Haganah has been outspoken against indiscin protecting its program of immigration and self-

As the possible creation of a Jewish state area in Filostine nears realization, these two factions have become bitterly opposed, in what amounts to a prelimary contest for positions of power in the state-to-be. By standers who have little good will for the Jewish cause have been delighted to observe signs of animosity which, they were sure, would lead to bloodshed. Soon the Jews who had been decimated by the fascists would complete the job by killing each other. In against the deceptance of partition. But the first mortal combet took place in Europe.

2....

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It took the form of a raid on Sammy's Place. Early one morning, a few weeks ago, about a hundred men invaded the camp, beating up the boys who were sleeping there. They burned the trucks used to transport immigrants. They broke up furniture, smashed open doors, shot their way through the house. They killed one of the defenders of the Brayha outpost. They were looking for Sammy, the leader, but he had spont the night elsewhere.

A few days later, in revenge, the Brayha boys caught a few of the perpetrators of the raid, roughed them up, obtained certain information, and then let the mon go.

One of those men was later found dead. The Brayha beys claim that the Irgun killed their own man, for betraying certain secrets. The Irgunists issued as bitter leaflet claiming that the Brayha killed this man and detailing the operations of the Brayha at Sammy's Place. This leaflet was sent to all local authorities.

It is difficult to understand the motives of the Irgunists. No one can deny that the Haganah and the Brayha have carried out the monumental task of bringing the Jews through Europe and out of Europe. They have sent ships have been named for Palestinian parachutists and encient Jewish heroes. The Irgun sent one ship to writer upon whose prestige is based much of the fund-russing activity of this organization's agents in America. They call themselves the Hebrew Resistance Committee and societies. They raise money on the plea of sending in Jerusalem.

It is doubtful whether the people who contribute to these organizations know that the greater part of the money that gots out of the United States goes to support organizational activities in Europe, aimed at increasing the power of this faction in the event of American Jews responding to the appeal of a gifted writer know that their money goes to the support of bands that are attacking other Jews, in a simple fight for power.

The Irgun does not have any stations in Europe for bringing Jaws through Europe to Mediterranean harbors. The Irgun is not sending boots across.

and ittimet to destroy it was an action that might have been expected from a bunch of SS men holding out in the the Brayha was killed.

The Irgunists promise that this as only their beginning.

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COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO B REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WIT OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON List of equipment and personal effects belonging to the Meyer Levin film unit alleged to have been either lost or stelen subsequent to the unit's disembarkation at Haifa Fort on 23rd December, 1947.

- 1. Eyom film camera Nc.382128, leaded with four tins of unexposed film. (The camera's spring is broken).
- 2. Bricf case containing private papers, ten rells of "120" unexposed film, two Cassettes with unexposed film, one rell of Kodachrone colour film (exposed) and three hundred dellars in not so Property of Mr. Levin.
- 5. One termes typowriter (preparty of Mr. Levin)
- 4. Complete contents of a suite as belonging to
- 5. On sailors kit bag containing elothing and norsonal offects of Hr. Hesse.
- 6. One small knapsack containing personal effects and four rolls of exposed "120" film. (The property of Mr. Hesse).
- 7. Complete contents of a suitease belonging to kr. Michalowicz.
- 8. One small knapsack containing personal effects, from 15 to 20 rolls of exposed "120" film and five Leica Cassettes containing exposed film. (Property of Madam Torres).

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Cypher/OTP

FILES

FROM TUNIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE E 602

His Majesty's Consul General
No. 3 Saving
7th January, 1948. R. 1.2

R. 1.25 p.m. 1 th Jan My 1948

#### CONFIDENTI L

Residency Ceneral informed me this morning that they have been advised by Paris of the expected arrival in Tunis from France towards the beginning of next month, of a Jewish emissary named Fisher. Object of mission is said to be to discourage Tunisian Jews from proceeding at present to Palestine in spite of any encouraging reports they may receive from Tunisian nucleus already there. If this is so the journey appears unnecessary as few if any wish to go.

2. Please repeat to Paris as my Saving telegram
No. 1 of January 7th.

[Repeated to Paris Saving].

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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E [ 615 PALESTINE Alige I Mingrolian

Aline FO El 10771 (AN 3512/29/8) re

detential and relians of BONITH Encloses

copy of (the from Lumanna Fruit and

Attamphy body. A context ship of sheers

which is to wint gelrollar startly. Examing W You Received 524/-/48 in Registry 8 1. Last Paper. (Minutes.) Letter to c.o. 612 References. AN 35/2/29/8 47 AN 35-48/29/8 47 (Print.) In P.P. G.O. tel 63 Sawing Copy washington Chancery refee. Its Rb.3 (How disposed of.) Aft. diglam from the bable y lamps. Pohens. 11:50 Jan 19 PJ.O. (Action completed.) (Ind Next Paper. 647 (E1505) 26513 F.O.P.

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E G15

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

8th January 1948

## Ref: G24/-/48

Dear Department,

Please refer to Foreign Office telegram
No. 10771 of the 18th October last about the
detention and subsequent release of the motorship
BONITO at Gibraltar.

2. We enclose herein a copy of a letter from the Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company to our Vice Consulate at Jacksonville about another ship of theirs which is to visit Gibraltar in the near future. Approval for the transfer to Honduran registry of both the PATUCA and the BONITO was requested on the 27th January last year and, after discussing the matter here, we replied that we had no objection. We have had no reason to suppose that this company has any connection with the illegal immigration traffic.

Yours ever,

Chancery

Cha

Eastern Department, Foreign Office, London, S.W.1. APH - NOT TO BE RAPHICALLY WITH-THE PUBLIC

COPY

35

Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company Foot of Catherine Street, Jacksonville 1, Florida.

January 5, 1948

Mr. F.J. White British Vice-Consul Jacksonville, Florida.

Bear Mr. White,

We have just completed negotiations to charter our Honduran MS "PATUCA" for a trip from Sagua La Grande, Cuba, to Genoa, Italy, with full cargo of alcohol in drums.

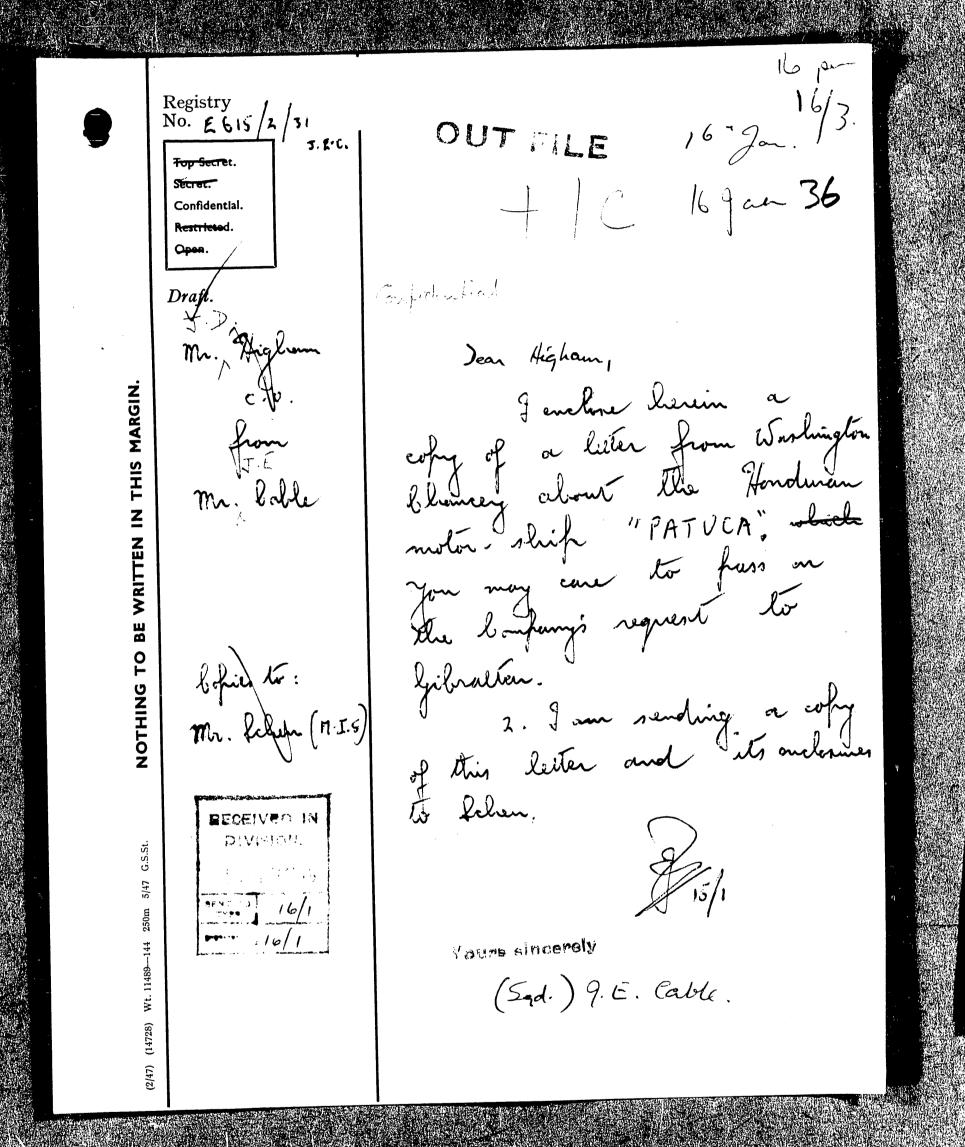
This vessel is scheduled to sail from Cuba the latter part of this week and upon completion of discharging her cargo in Genoa we plan to bring return cargo of cement to Rio de Janeiro.

May we ask that you pass on this information to the various Branches of your Government who may be interested since we do not want to encounter the difficulties we had recently in Gibraltar with our

Yours very truly,

/s/ C. DeMontmollin Asst. to Vice-Pres.

 $\infty$ IJ



FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16th January, 1948.

(E 615/2/31) CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Higham,

I enclose herein a copy of a letter from Washington Chancery about the Hondurian motor-ship "Patuca". You may care to pass on the Company's request to Gibraltar.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures to Schen.

Yours sincerely

(Sqd.) (J.E. Cable)

J.D. Higham, Esq., Colonial Office.

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76021/46A/48. From the Secretary of State for the Colonies. To the Officer Administering the Government of..... 3/ January, 1948. Date... Saving. No. M.S. PATUCA. Above-named vessel, owned by Company which also owns M.S.BONITA, will pass through Gibraltar shortly bound for Genoa with cargo of alcohol. 2. We have no, repeat no, reason to suppose that this company is connected with traffic in illegal immigrants to Palestine. SECER. • 31 JAN 1948

1 68514

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G47

Code R

## FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett D. 7.47 p.m. 15th January, 1940 No.59

Repeated Saving to Jerusalem, Washington, Bucharest and United Kingdom Delegation New York.

13th January, 1948 R. 8.37 p.s. 13th January, 1940

#### RESTRICTED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 59 of January 13th, repeated Saving to Jerusalem, Washington, Bucharest and United Kingdom Delegation New York.

My despatch No. 390.

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

Immediately after receipt of your telegram No. 31 and before I could take action on it I received a note from the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs of which the following is translation.

[Begins].

In connexion with the letter which your Excellency was good enough to send me on December 27th I am compelled to reject energetically any reproach direct or indirect to the Bulgarian Government or its organs in relation to passage acress bulgarian territory of a certain number of Roumanian and Hungarian nationals travelling to Panama.

- 2. The emigrants in question held regular passports for their emigration to Panama and the Bulgarian authorities granted them permission to transit Bulgaria for embarkation on Panamaniar ships. The Bulgarian authorities had neither reason nor interest to question regular passports issued by States with which bulgaria is in friendly relations and from whom she claims to receive treatment based on the principle of reciprocity. It is truly surprising that such an act by the Bulgarian authorities which conforms to the rules and customs of international relations can be considered as an infringement of the United Nations Charter.
- 3. Bulgarian authorities have no information that any Bulgarian nationals were amongst the emigrants. They did not ive permission to any Bulgarian Jews to embark on the Panamanian ships "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York".

T

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APH - NOT TO BE RAPHICALLY WITH-THE PUBLIC

4. In your representations to the Bulgarian Government this question, you base yourself on a decision of the United Nations contenting Palestine. If your contention that the emigrants in question intended in fact to go to Falestine is correct I should have to draw your attention to the obvious fact that the Bulgarian Government which is not a member of the United Nations is not in a position to know the decisions of the United Mations about Palestine; it has neither been invited to be represented when the Palestine question was discussed nor informed of the recommendations of the United Nations of which you speak, nor asked to lend its aid in implementation of these recommendations. In these circumstances allow me to emphasise here that it is astonishing to reproach the Bulgarian Government for not conforming to the decisions of the United Nations when it is well known that certain Great Powers, contrary to all spirit of equity and to the express obligation undertaken by them did their utmost to reject admission of Bulgaria to the United Nations at the last session.

4. [sic]. The only way to ensure and render possible the effective collaboration of Bulgaria with the United Nations in all international questions is to have her admitted as a member of that body on the same basis as other states with equality of rights and to guarantee respect for her sovereignty.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

k k k

### **OUTWARD TELEGRAM**

#### FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

76021/46A/48 Cypher (O.S.P.)

TO GYPRUS (Lord Winster)

WROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sont loth January, 1948. 10.45 bra,

No.29 Secret.

Addressa Governos, Gyprus. Rojasaca High Cumminsioner, Palestins, Wo.153. Sofia,

Fun ship irenigranto,

Tormal problem to Aulgarian Government about sailing of Panabips. Before doing so, he requests outlimedian on relieving points:

- (s) Is it setablished that the majority if not all the implements embarked at Roungary
- (b) Is there may indication that any lemigrants over bold Pensonnies yields?
  - (a) bld the party contain eny Jeer of Bulgarian residences
- 2. The protect in Solis, to be elivetive, must by made quickly. If he may well be the case, there has been no time as yet for theresigh interposation, or if it is to told that confirmation of these details will take more than a day or tro. I should be gretaful if you would interm me so that a cooky to that allows can be cont to Solid immediately.

(Occide sond to Foreign Office for retrementation to Seria).

Orth cove pose

Foreign office

- Mr. J. M. Cobio.

1.5. 42 1948.

17 Jan 1948. Your Reference. My dear Cable, I enclose a copy of Cypris tel. no 34 unich I will send over by special wesanger. Mons smerly. Parl Hohmer.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

### TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES Cypher (0.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

D. 16th January, 1948.
R. 16th "

16.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 34 Secret

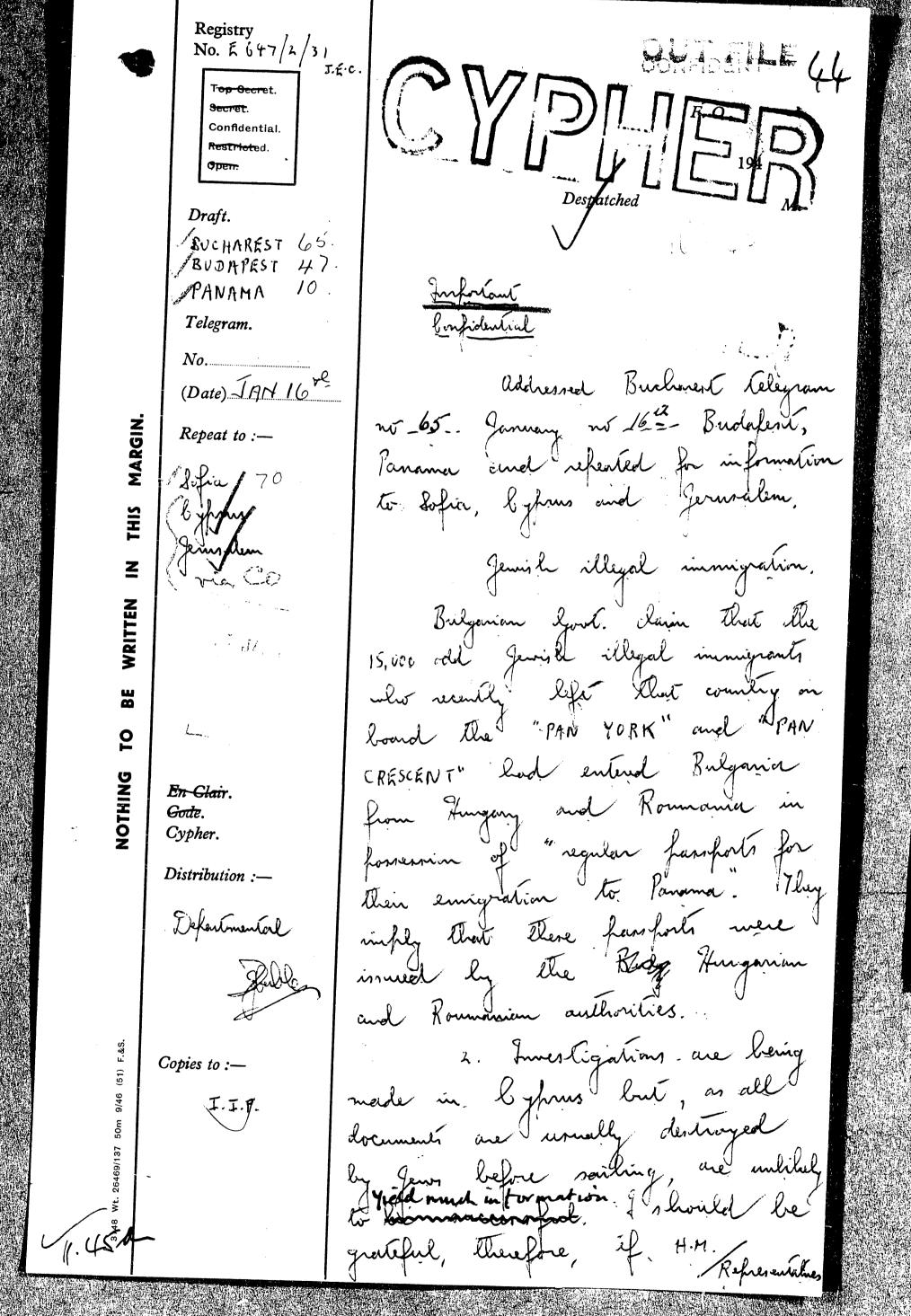
> Addressed to the S. of S. Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 27.

Your telegram No. 29.

PAN Ships Immigrants.

- (a) Embarkation for both ships took place at Hourgas and all immigrants aboard embarked there,
- There is no indication that any of the immigrants held Panamanian visas. None were produced or seen amongst papers of immigrants on arrival in Cyprus.
- No evidence has come to light that the party contained any Jews of Bulgarian residence. The great majority were Rumanian and there was a sprinkling of Eusaians.

Copies sent to: Poreign Office - Mr. J.J. Cable. RECORD



Refreshibitives in Bucharest and
Budsfert would endeavour to
assertion whether such fairfirsts
were actually issued by authorities
Romanian and Funganian fairfirst
and, if no, whether they christ
whether he grateful if H.M.
Minister in Panama would
engine from the Good, to
whether they have any
refresentative in Hungary Romania
or Bulgarian authorized to
insue Panamanian visas in
onch mumbers.

THING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/OTP E 647/2/31. Confidential.

D.PART.MTAL.

## FROM FOR MIGH OFFICE TO BUCHLESST.

No. 65.

16th January, 1948. D. 2.15 p.m. 16th January, 1948.

And to Budapest No. 47, Panama No. 10, Repeated to Sofia No. 70, Cyprus, Jerusalem via C.O.

HIPORTAIT.

60 PIDENT L.

and to Budapest, Panama and repeated for information to Sofia, Cyprus and Jerusalem.

Jewish illegal immigration.

Bulgarian Government claim that the 10,000 odd Jewish illegal immigrants who recently left that country on board the "Pan York" and "Pan Crescent" had entered Bulgaria from Mungary and Roumania in possession of "regular passports for their emigration to Panama". They imply that these passports were issued by the Mungarian and Roumanian authorities.

2. Investigations are being made in Cyprus but, as all documents are usually destrojed by Jews before sailing, are unlikely to yield much information. I should be grateful, therefore, if his Majesty's Representatives in Bucharest and Budapest would endeavour to ascertain whether such passports were actually issued by the Roumanian and Mungarian authorities and, if so, whether they carried Panamanian visas. I should also be grateful if his majesty's Minister in Panama would enquire from the Government to which he is accredited whether they have any representative in Mungary, Moumania or Bulgaria authorized to issue Panamanian visas in such numbers.

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	E	£ 654
1948	PALESTINE	: JAN _ 46
Registry \ 654 2/31 Number \ \ 654 2/31  TELEGRAM FROM W \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Town & Primaration  The fill N'6 (END6/2/3)  Foreign Officers aring argument ful charled he glod of any have does not approur of month as on CYPRESS of the 127 in a rich of Jast sentimed	How matter paly  t - 40 til 46 to Remain  the details a lateral entermation  up self liste and information  not very convening
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(How disposed of.)  8, 99. P		
Tel, Panama No.9. Rplil, Rama 108 8, 77 f.  Jan. 19 on 647  an E647/2/11		
(Action completed.)  Next Paper.	30471 F.O.P	

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TO 371

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Cypher/O.P

DIPARTIMINAL

FROM PARALL TO FOREIGH OFFICE.

Er. Ellison,

D: 7.53 p.m. 14th January, 1948

No.4. 14th January, 1948.

R: 11.20 p.m. 14th January, 1948

I PORTAT.

Your telegram No. 6.

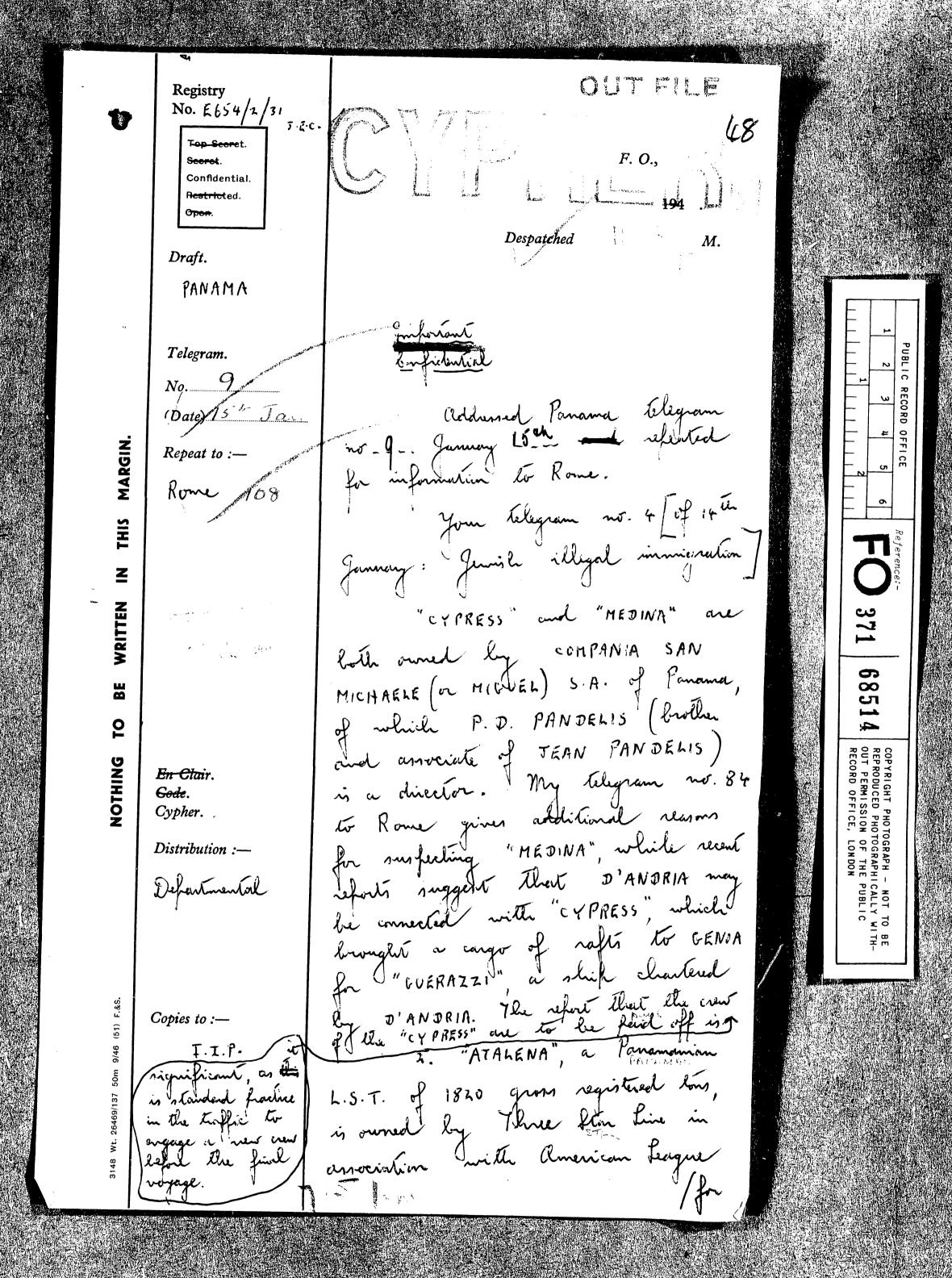
Jewish immigration.

I have written Ministry of Foreign Affairs using the arguments in your telegram No.76 to Rome but should be glad of any further details as Atalena does not appear in recent suspect lists and information on Cypress in list number 27 is not very convincing especially in view of the last sentence.

Incidentally information in the same list regarding Medina is equally confusing.

[Copy sent to Middle Mast Secretariat].

A A A A



for a Free Palestine. Although for General Tenousts, already sent one illegal The "ABRIL" alian "BEN HECHT" 3 American Jews, of whom 2 (BEN ARON PARAST and ABRAM STAWSKY) are lenour extremists,

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DEPARTMENT

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## FROM TORNIGH OFFICE TO MANAGA

No. 9

D. 11.30 p.m. 15th January 1948

15th January 1948

Repeated to Rome No. 108

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Panama telegram No. 9 of 15th January repeated for information to Nome.

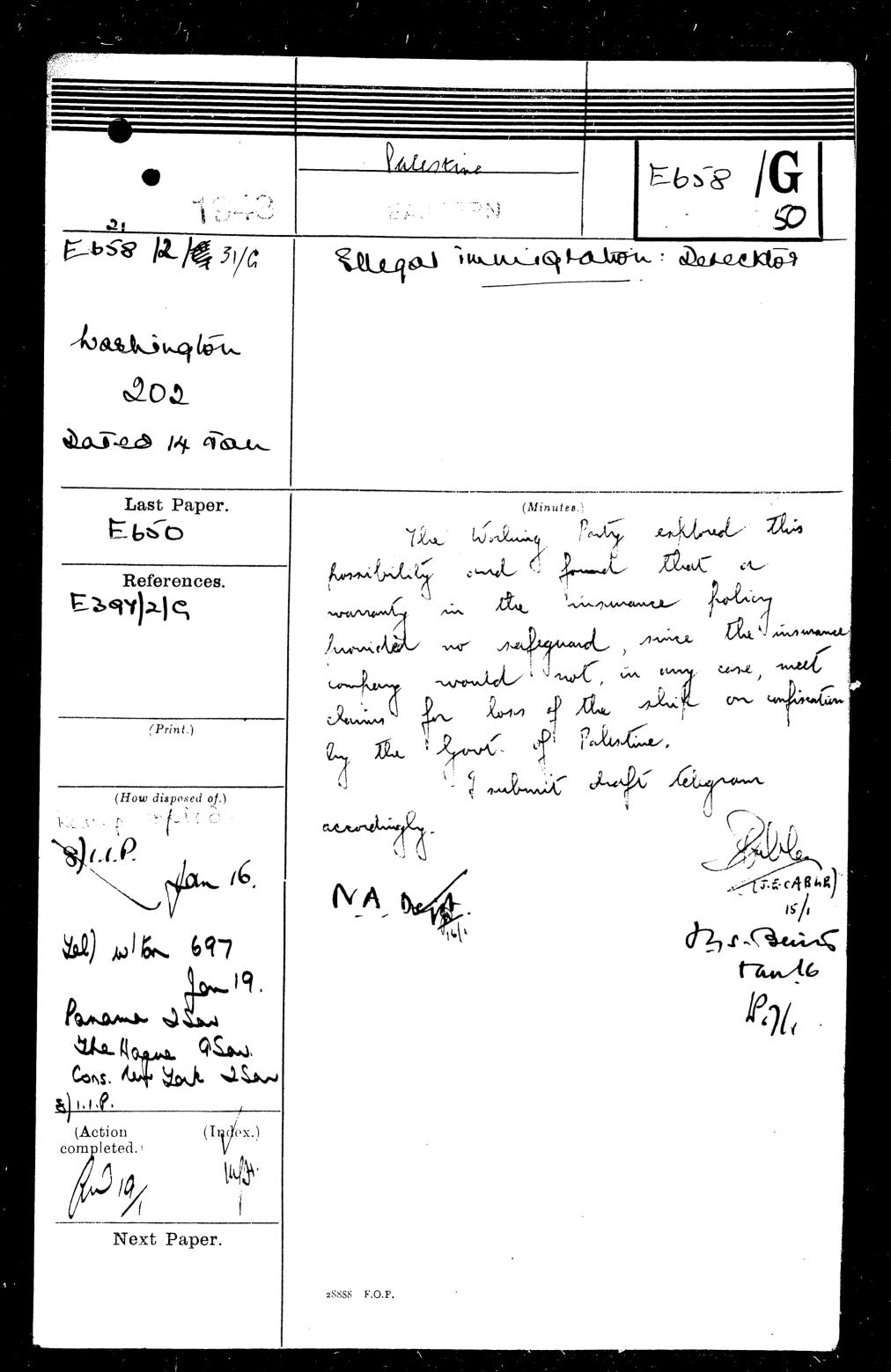
Your telegram No. 4 [of 14th January: Jewish illegal immigration].

"Cypress" and "Ledina" are both owned by Compania Jan Lichaele (or Miguel) G.A. of Panama, of which P.D. Pandelis (brother and associate of Jean Pandelis) is a director. Ty telegram No. 84 to Home gives additional reasons for suspecting "Ledina", while recent reports suggest that d'Andria may be connected with "Cy ress", which brought a cargo of rafts to Genoa for "Guerazzi", a ship chartered by d'Andria. The report that the crew of the "Cypress" are to be paid off is significant, as it is standard practice in the traffic to engage a new crew before the final voyage.

2. "Atalena", a Panamanian L.S.T. of 1820 gross registered tons, is owned by Three Star Line in association with American League for a Free Palestine. Although this organisation has hitherto concentrated mainly on raising funds in the United States for Jewish terrorists, it has already sent one illegal immigrant ship to Palestine: the "Abril" alias "Ben Hecht".

3. American Jews, of whom 2 (Ben Aron Palast and Abram Stawsky) are known extremists, are in charge of preparations for embarking Jews on "Atalena".

ccc



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Reference:

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TO 371 68514

RECORD OFFICE, LONDO

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

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# FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No: 202

D. 9. 59. p. m. 14th January 1948

14th January 1948

R. 3. 5. a.m. 15th January 1948

Repeated to Panama

Jerusalem The Hague

New York (Consulate General)

## IMPORTANT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 202

January 14th repeated to Panama, Jerusalem, The Hague,

Consulate General New York.

Confidential.

34

Your telegram No: 419.

Jewish illegal immigration.

State Department are considering points made in your telegram under reference. They had, meanwhile without committing Maritime Commission suggested to Dereckter that he might put up bond of dollars 250,000. He thought this prohibited and said he had been thinking of dollars 50,000 to 100,000. State Department also mentioned to him that they had heard that he was trying to insure the Colonel F.C. Johnson in London market. He replied that he wished to insure her with Lloyds in London, but could not do so until she had a flag. His London agent had, he said, just written to him asking whether a warranty against illegal immigration should be included in insurance and he was willing to agree to this.

2. State Department will be interested to know whether inclusion of a warranty against illegal immigration in insurance policy would medify view expressed in paragraph 4 of your telegram under reference as to guarantee which you require.

my telegrams Nes: 11 and 6.

[Repeated to The Hague].

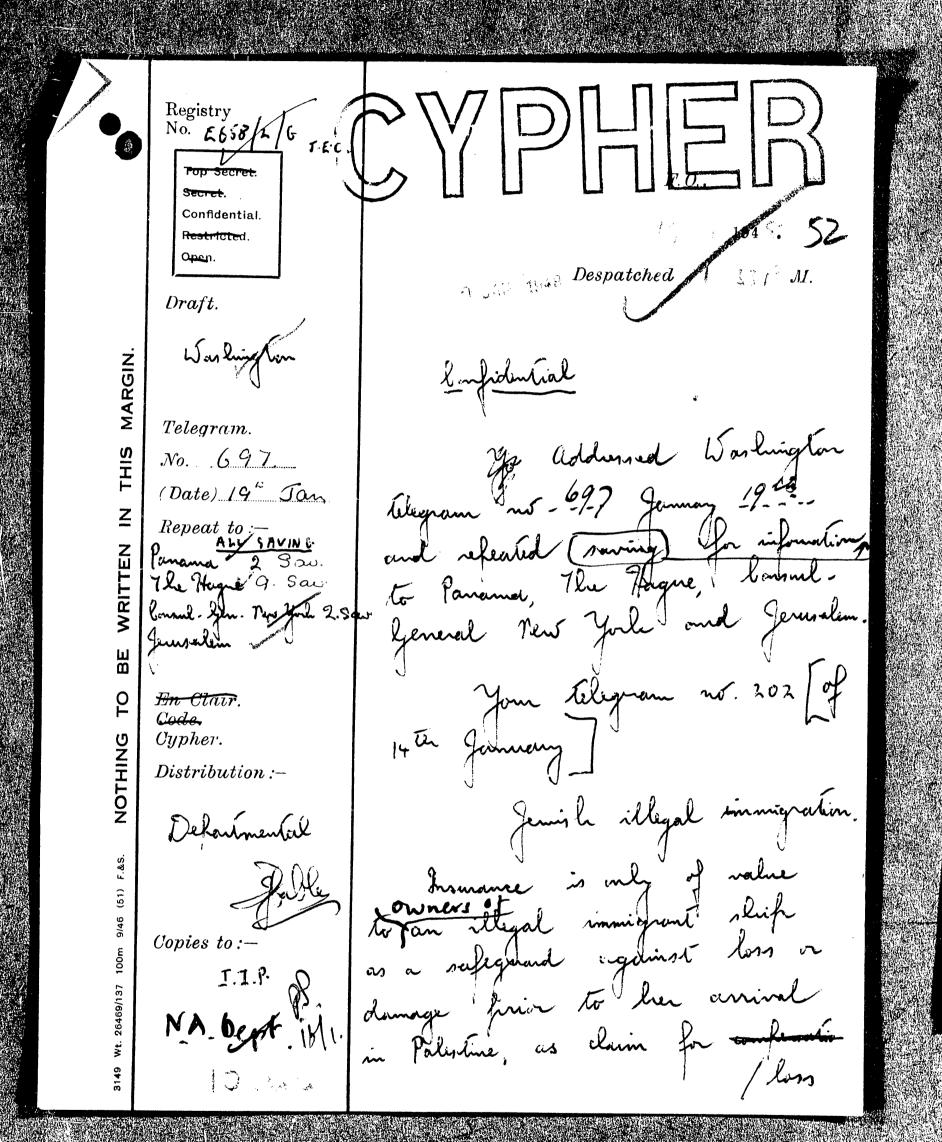
[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem].

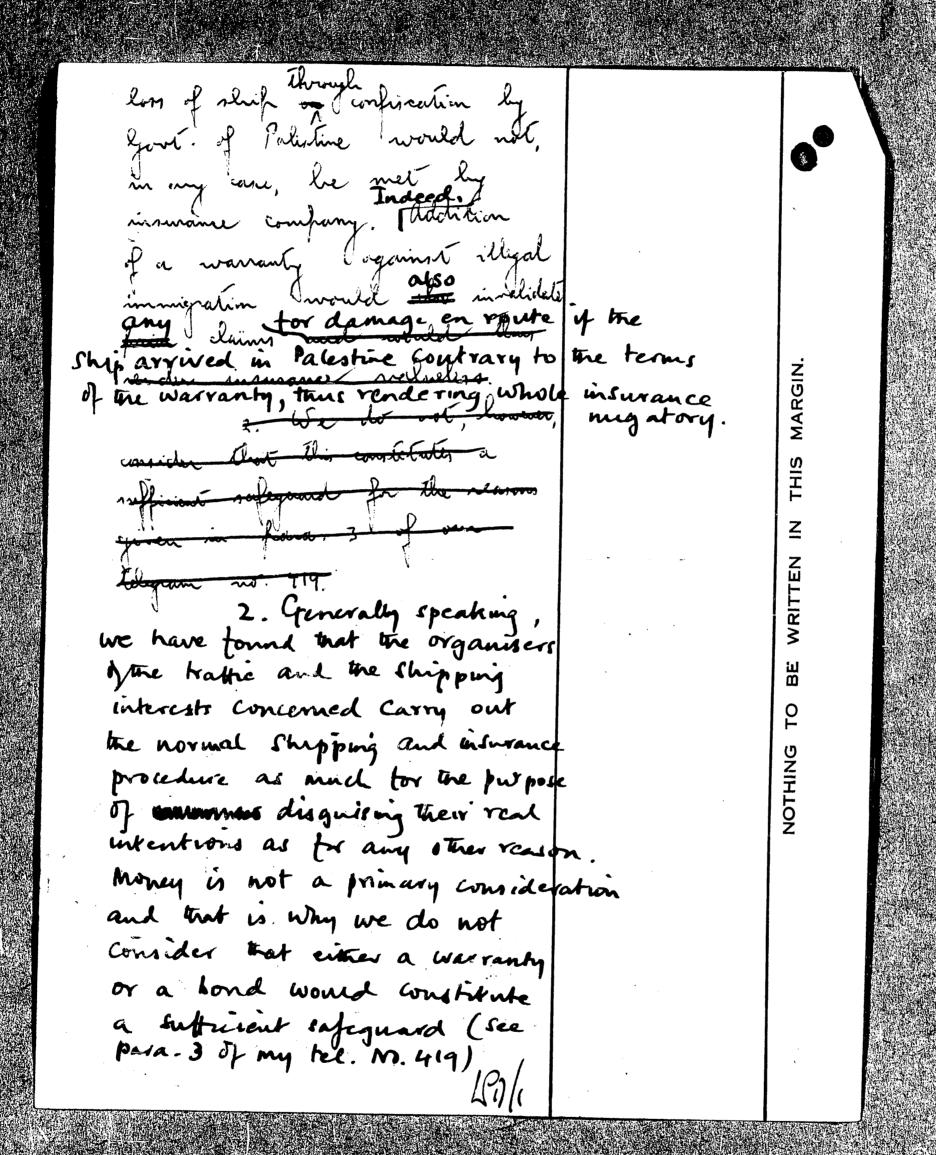
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### DEPARTMENTAL

### FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 697
D. 1.33 p.m. 19th January, 1948

Repeated to Panama No. 2 Saving
The Hague Lo. 9 Saving
New York (Consul-General) No. 2 Saving
Jerusalem Saving

### CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 697 of 19th January, repeated for information saving to Panama, The Hague, New York (Consul-General) and Jerusalem.

Your telegrem No. 202 [of 14th January].

Jewish illegal immigration.

Insurance is only of value to owners of an illegal immigrant ship as a safeguard against loss or damage prior to her arrival in Palestine, as claim for loss of ship through confiscation by Government of Palestine would not, in any case, be met by insurance company. Indeed, addition of a warranty against illegal immigration would also invalidate any claims for damage en route if the ship arrived in Palestine contrary to the terms of the warranty, thus rendering whole insurance nugatory.

2. Generally speaking, we have found that the organisers of the traffic and the shipping interests concerned carry out the normal shipping and insurance procedure as much for the purpose of disguising their real intentions as for any other reason. Money is not a primary consideration and that is why we do not consider that either a warranty or a bond would constitute a sufficient safeguard (see paragraph 3 of my telegram No. 419).

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PPP

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abla

We see no spection to the kinns of the proposed note. If Eastern Dept.

Can accept the delay necessary to incorporate any Cypund evidence, the may add weight to an already comprehensive argument.

Sekhisen 16,

There p.p. at hot reach U.N Jeget unt. 7 Jan- 20.

In view of the dishonesty enit the impartinence of the Balgarian note, the replywhich it. Strandak Bennetti proposes to return sums 10 me 10 he for 100 week. In particular 1 do not the Me passage which I have marked "A".

We opposed Bulgara's admission who the U.N. because we were not satisfied that she intended to furfit her treaty obligations in the freed of human vights. In addition to that I as Sin A. Cadopan stand in the Security Council on Aug. 21. 1947

TC 371

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ÖPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE EPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH UT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC ECORD OFFICE, LONDON The boundary Council Commission of Madgacia Council Commission of Musestization to Green found Bulgaria Builty of Sheating disorder in Greece.

Another reason for our opposition was Bulgaria's refusal to cooperate with their Commission winder the Months to obstact its work.

The present opportunity to an account one to repeat the above in the plannest torms, emphasising that Bulgaria's behaviour, fact from improving, has become immeasurable work when mendy sured to confirm the wisdom of our attitude. In fact, if we have definitely made up our mind never to thate Bulgaria's edmission into the own, against that of one of our frends, we and go so far as in say

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CIHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

on I when a gree to lat her

Subject 10 the views of the Southern Bepl. 1 wink wer passage on The above he wicherd in the note, prefundly a peroration or the end. But whether 17 13 a not note should point out somewhere that since Bulgaria is aspening membership John U.N. 7 .3 up 10 hur, as a good candidate, (7 She is one), "0 make some Is acquaint hereby with the activities John UN , return that 15 lordy indifference for U.N. decisions to be communicated to her. The Morgalions which members you U.N. are exclid upon so-undutake are manfold, ~7 Bulgara wishes her and latine 1. he taken seriously she had kellen

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FO 371

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gur nyer som re finding out 56 When they are. In the connecian it make he pointed out that Anticle 4 of the charter of the U.N. States The membership I open is peace loving states which accept he obligation of he charles which are -The judgement of he againg ation able and willing to carry them

E. E. TOMKINS

I think in showed cutainly refute the allyation contamed in the note that "certain freat forms", including of Course ourseles, disregarded their ofly time The arguments contained in 1st 1 clote 1947 Ceans to flow its decesions,

White

While the points made in MoTomkins! and or o'Neill's minutes build up a very strong case in connexion with Bulgaria's admission to the UN. Southern Deft rether afree with M Hern dele Rennett that this issue is a red heming brought out the bulgarian gout because it was forms part of the standard propagain line (figuring in treaty communiques etc). It is perhaps not the best Tachés to bring & Bulgarie's violation I human freedoms, her aid to Nakos, I have stord crunes in at the lail of a ven specific question on Much we want to insist on action ? ( Hob unaufration

We would suggest for couriber ation in a fitte sidelines because in para I something on the Tollowing lines. "M. F. A's implication was described as an infringement of v. V. charter is both untrue and irrelevant; and before the boes not been the incontestable

Fr. 22.1.

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We are dealing with the general question of a protest about Koumoman 1 Bulgarian Hatements on exclusion from 1/10 on with Aw

fact 1000 states in letter of 27 December that Bulgarian action is particularly reprehensible now that The U.N. have made their recommendations for the Juliare of Palestine + HT.h. are nejotieting with the transfer of authors, there with a U.N. Commission (publicity) wakes it necessary to spell this out) Un any case, if Bulgaria asperes to membership of the U.N. the worth Buljerren Jout would be well advised to acquaint Themselves with the activities of that the and of with The obligations which its members are celled whom to unbestake.

I thuk that covers There dis cussed with lung and

Also, - though this is for E dept to decide - The last 2 sentences of pera 4 \$ seen a little weak to me Could we not "conclude" either that the B.g. are believe tely couniving or else that they will in future ensure that there is no further Despatch etc?

Co a welson

Minutes.

Draft submitted Mr. Bairs Van 22

Len G Souther & V.N. Pol. Dyta L.F.L. Pyran 24/1

Aprollmons 241

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24.1

THIS MARGIN. WRITTEN IN BE NOTHING

UBLIC RECORD OFFICE FO 371

58

## FROM SOFTA TO FOREIGH OFFICE.

Mr. Sterndale Beinett, D: 7.32 p.m. 14th January, 1946 No. 67 14th January, 1948. R: 8.25 p.n. 14th January, 1948.

E 1661 Repeated to Washington Saving Jerusalem Bucharest U.K. Delegation New York Skivintan 1948

II.PORTAIN Confidential.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 67 of 14th January. Repeated Saving to Washington, Terusalem, Bucharest and U.K. Delegation hew York.

EG Confidential.

My telegrams Nos 59 and 63: Illegal immigration into Palestine.

I think that we should now send detailed note to Bulgarian Government on following lines which would provide comprehensive document for publication if required.

2. It would begin with statement that Bulgarian note had been conveyed to you and that I now have instructions to protest strongly against recent attempts at illegal imigration into Palestine made from Bulgarian ports. After reference to statement in Bulgarian note that Bulgarian Government had to question regular passports for immigration to Panama, note might centinue with recapitulation of all warnings and appeals made by this Legation to Ministry of Foreign Affairs since last August in cases of Paducah Northland Pan Crescent and Pan York. This part of the note would particularly stress the re west for searching investigation of any claim that passengers were proceeding to destinations other than Palestine.

3. Any information obtained by our authorities in Cyprus which throws doubt on statements that emigrants in Pan Crescent and Pan York had Fanamanian visas and included no Bulgarian Jews might be inserted. I would prepose to add a paragraph also about decision of Panamanian Government not to renew provisional patents of registration of these vessels, in view of their proved utilisation in illegal traffic.

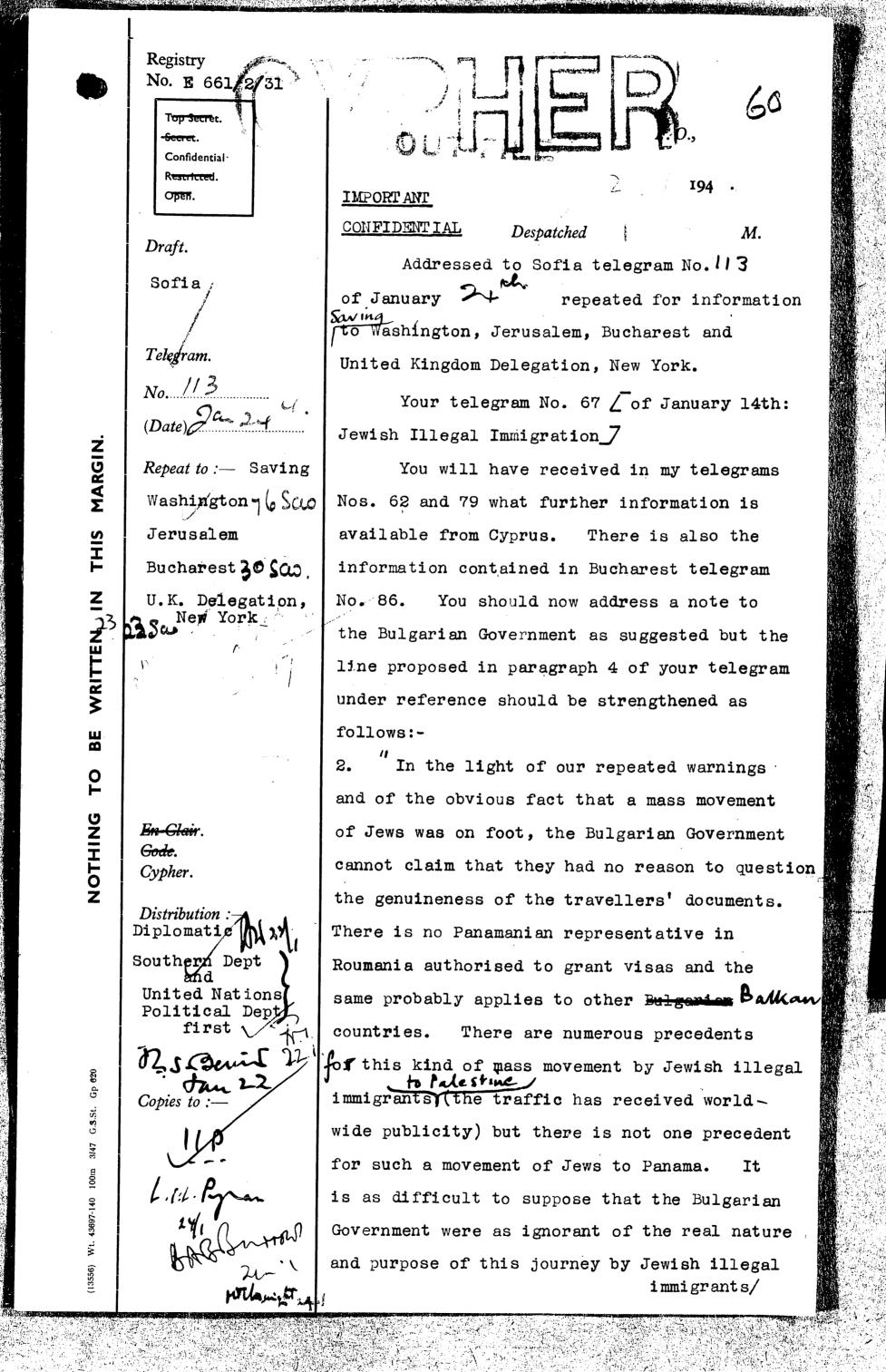
4. Lete might include that in face of our replated warnings, Bulgarian Gevernment cannot claim they had [Yemission] reason to question genuineness of travel documents. The ther er not they consider themselves to have any interest in so doing is a question of ethical standards which they may decide to adopt. But to disclaim such interest is to assume heavy [grp. undec. ? responsibility]. Bulgarian action has not so far been described as infringement of United Nations Charter as implied in Minister for Fereign Affair's efficial notification. But contention advanced in my letter of 27th December is in the view of His Majesty's Government incentestable. [ While His Lajesty's Government may have occasion to deal separately with minister for Foreign Affair's remarks about non-admission of Bulgaria into United Nations, they decline to be drawn into irrelevant discussion of that matter in this connexion. The serious pesition in Palestine and steps taken by the United Lations are so much matters of public knowledge, that the Bulgarian Government must be presumed to be fully aware of the serious complications likely to be caused by illegal immigration at the present critical time. They have in any case been left in no doubt by the Legation. It is therefore matter of great regret to His Majesty's Government that Bulgaria has hitherts turned a deaf ear to representations. His hajesty's Government are relictant to conclude that the Bulgarian Government, while aspiring to membership of United hations, are yet deliberately conniving at illegal immigration. But if this is not the case they trust that Bulgarian Government, realising that they have been duped in four cases by the unscrupulous promoters of illicit traffic, will take active steps to prevent further despatch from Bulgarian territory and ports, persons who may be trying to enter Palestine illegally.

o. If you amprove this general outline you may decide to give me discretion as to exact terms. Otherwise I will send full draft for approval by bag January 17th. It is desirable that the note should go in before any further immigrant ships arrive in this neighbourhood, and I trust therefore that everything will be some to expedite the information asked for in my telegram Ma. 63.

[Copy sent to hi dle East Secretariat].

AAAA

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immigrants aiming to break the law of Palestine as that they were ignorant of the United Nations appeal for the avoidance of any action likely to exaccerbate the critical situation in Palestine and precipitate an Arab-Jewish Conflict.

The M.F.A's implication that Bulgarian action was described as an infringement of U.N. Charter is both untrue and irrelevant; and he does not deny the incontestable fact stated in letter of 22 December that Bulgarian action is particularly reprehensible now that the U.N. have made their recommendations for the future of Palestine and H.M.G. are discussing velinquishment of authority there with a U.N. commission, formation was the novalantorepolitations of In any case if Bulgaria aspires to membership of the U.N. Bulgarian Government would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the activities of that organization and with the obligations which its members are called upon to undertake. Please substitute for the last three

sentences of paragraph 4 something on the following lines. "We can only conclude from the evidence available that the Bulgarian authorities have either been deliberately conniving at the illegal made and that it canybe assumed that no further party will be allowed to leave in this mammer.

5. Please telegraph text of your note.

WRITTEN 0 OTHING

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DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION.

MROW FORMIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA.

No. 113

24th January 1948 D. 1 a.m. 25th January 1948.

Repeated to Washington No. 76 Saving Jerusalem Bucharest No. 30 Saving U.R. Delegation New York No. 23 Saving

IMPORTANT. CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Sefia telegram No. 113 of January 24th repeated for information Saving to ashington, Jerusalem, Bucharest and United Kingdom Delegation, New York.

Your telegram No. 67 [ef January 14th: Jewish Illegal Immigration].

You will have received in my telegrams Nos. 62 and 79 what further information is available from Cyprus. There is also the information contained in Bucharest telegram No. 86. You should now address a note to the Bulgarian Government as suggested but the line prepesed in paragraph 4 of your telegram under reference should be strengthened as fellows:-

"In the light of our repeated warnings and of the obvious fact that a mass movement of Jews was on foet, the Bulgarian Government cannot claim that they had no reason to question the genuineness of the travellers' decuments. There is no Panamanian representative in Roumania authorised to grant visas and the same probably applies to other Balkan countries. There are numerous procedents for this kind of mass movement by Jewish illegal immigrants to alestine (the traffic has received werla-wide publicity) but there is not one precedent for such a movement of Jews to Panama. It is as difficult to suppose that the Bulgarian Government were as ignorant of the real nature and purpose of this journey by Jewish illegal immigrants aiming to break the law of ralestine as that they were ignorant of the United Nations appeal for the avoidance of any action likely to exacerbate the critical situation in Palestine and precipitate an Arab-Jewish conflict.

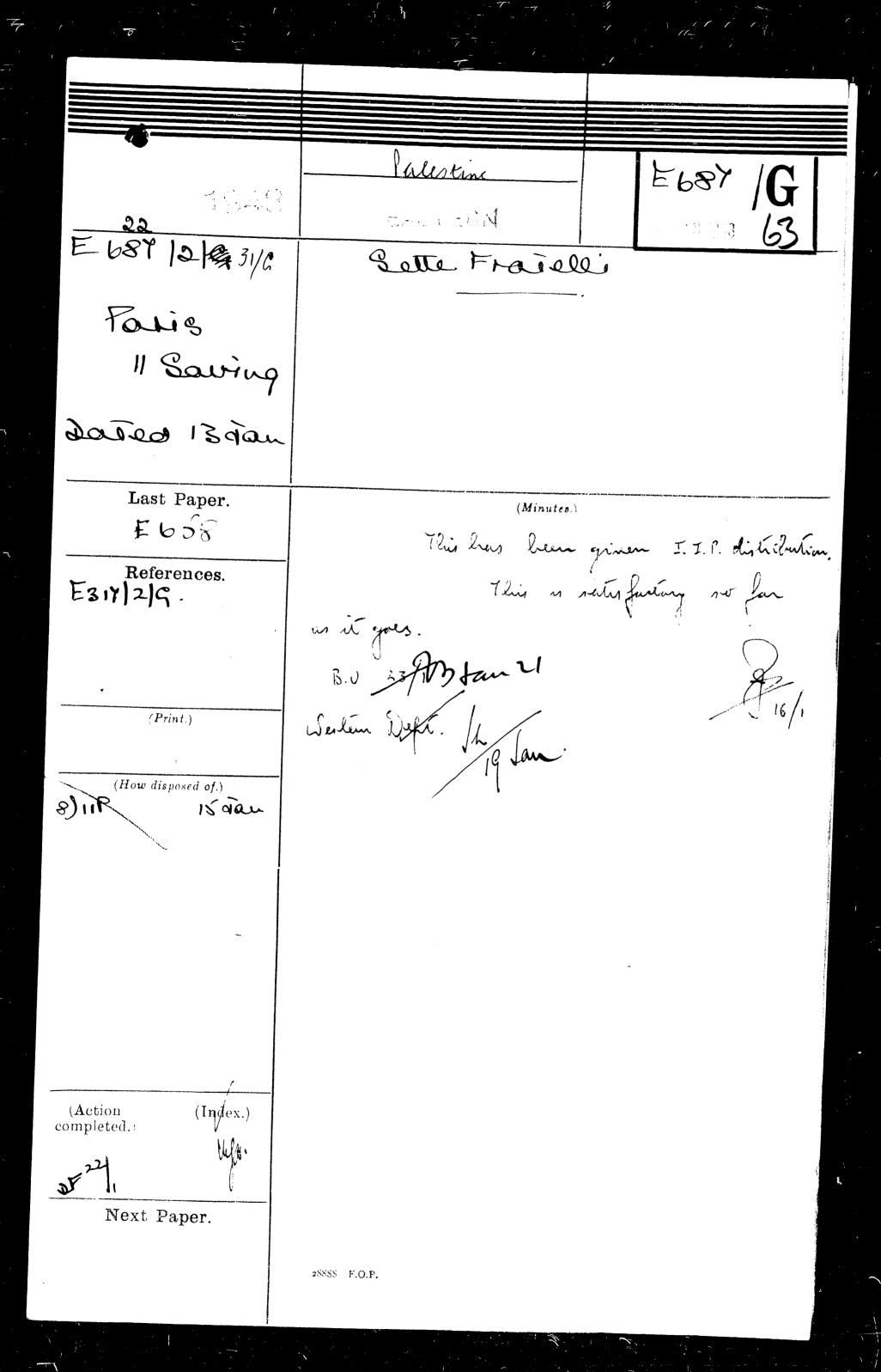
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- implication that Bulgarian action was described as an infringement of United Nations Charter is both untrue and irrelevant; and he does not deny the incentestable fact stated in letter of 22nd December that Bulgarian action is particularly reprehensible now that the United Nations have made their recommendations for the future of Palestine and His Majesty's Government are discussing the relinquishment of authority there with a United Nations Commaission. In any case if Bulgaria aspires to membership of the United Nations Bulgarian Government would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the activities of that organisation and with the obligations which its members are called upon to undertake".
- 4. Finally, please substitute for the last three sentences of paragraph 4 something on the following lines. "We can only conclude from the evidence available that the Bulgarian authorities have either been deliberately conniving at the illegal imaigration traffic or that a mistake has been made and that it can therefore be assumed that no further party will be allowed to leave in this manner".
- 5. Please telegraph text of your note.

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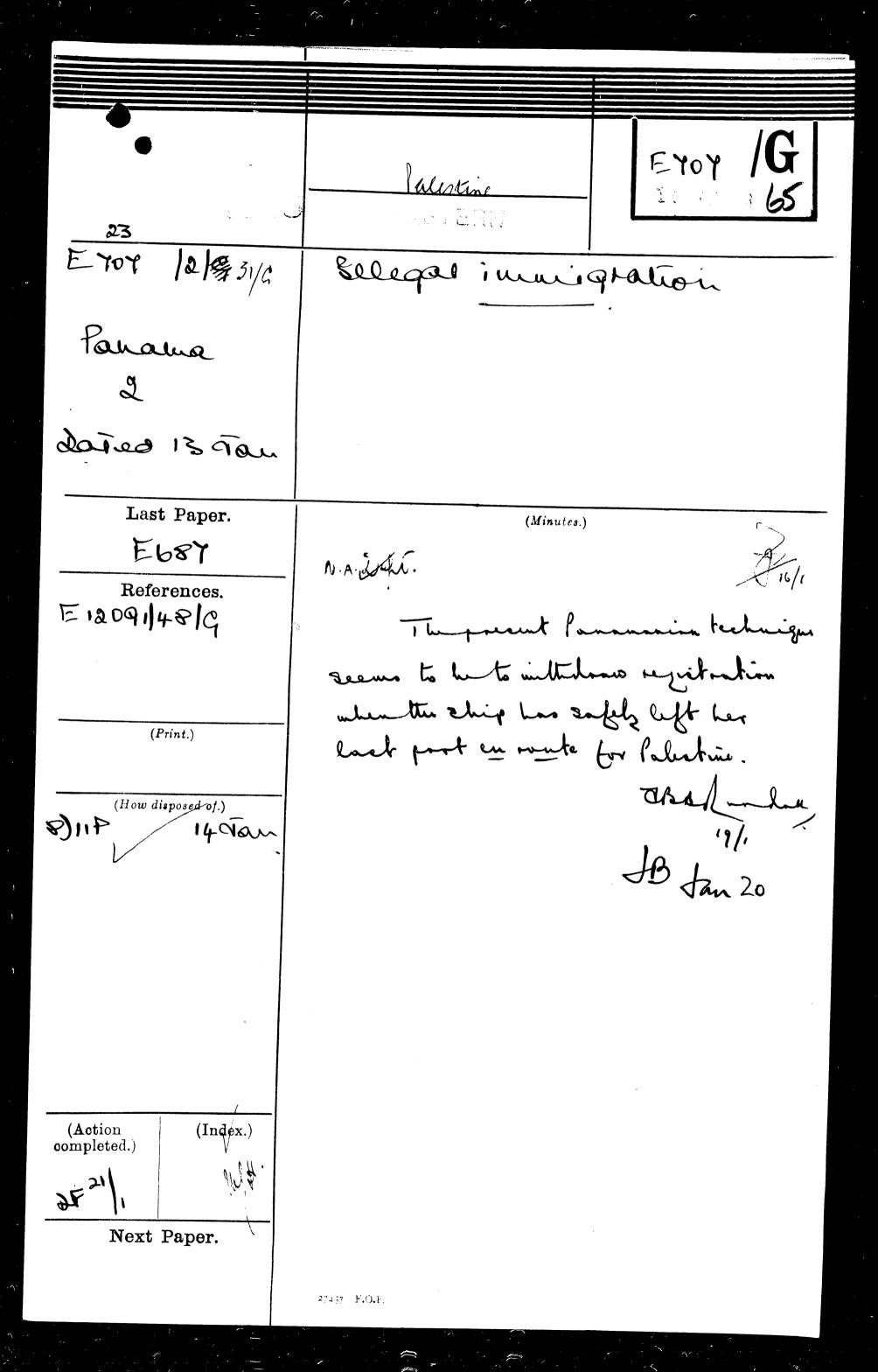
En Clair (by Confidential Bag.) FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir O. Harvey.
No. 11 SAVING. R: 15th January, 1948. 13th January, 1948.

Your telegram No. 41.

A communication in the terms you suggest had already been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Sette Fratelli is still under repair and I am assured that the local authorities have been instructed to take all reasonable steps to retard her departure after the completion of repairs.

QQ



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[CODE R]

## DEPARTMENTA L

## FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Greenway
No: 2

13th January 1948

D.12.10.p.m.13th January 1948

R. 6. 0. p.m. 13th January 1948

IMPORTANT

Your telegram No: 3 Jewish Immigration.

I saw new Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning. He was most sympathetic and will do what he can. He told me that Panamanian Government are urgently working on an executive order designed to modify present law governing registration.

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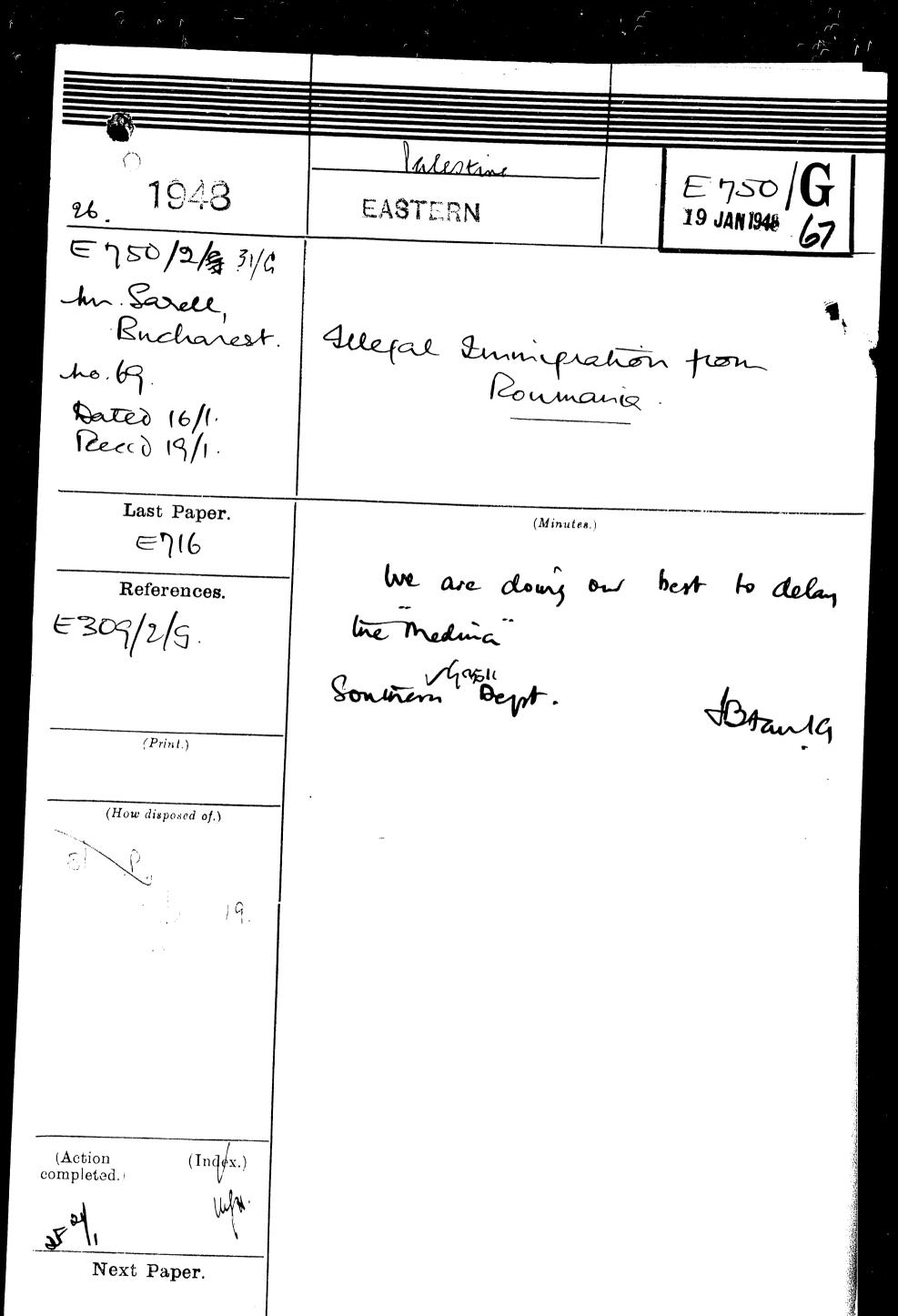
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28888 F.O.P.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL.

## FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Sarell.

D. 8.21 a.m. 17th January, 1948.

No. 63. 16th January, 1948. R. 10.20 a.m. 17th January, 1948. Repeated to Angora, Jerusalem, Middle East Office, C in C mediterranean malta and Sofia.

CONFIDENTIAL.

E750 19 JAN 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 69 of January, 16th, repeated to Angora, Jerusalem, Middle East Office C in C mediterranean malta and Sofia.

Your telegram No. 32. [/6

Reports from well informed sources state that another batch of J,000 illegal Jewish immigrants are assembling in There are indications that this information is correct.

2. Reference is made in several reports to a "large cargo vessel" able to take the whole batch of 9,000. This may refer to "medina".

5. On the other hand a prominent organiser of this traffic in Roumania told one reliable source that further departures from Roumania had now been suspended on orders received from Jewish authorities in Palestine. This may, of course, be a "plant" but it is difficult see why organisers should revert to this stratagem when they know we are powerless to prevent this or other departures.

Foreign Office please repeat to Angora, Jerusalem, middle East Office Cairo and C in C mediterranean malta as my telegrams Nos. 2, 3, 2 and 2 respectively.

Repeated to Angora and Middle Last Office Cairo. Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office and War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Jerusalem and C. in C. ..editerranean].

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[Copy sent to Middle Last Secretariat].

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MINI NO SECOND

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The Private Secretary

Foreign Office

Regianar. CMCA

With the compliments of

The Frivate Secretary

10 Downing Street S.W.1

19th January, 1948

21

# 5 6 Reference:-

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68514

No. HIS Majesty's Minister at Penama presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents. British. Minister... British Legation, Panama. Reference to previous correspondence: F.O. Telegram No. 3 dated 10-1-48 12091/4/9 Description of Enclosure. Name and Date. Subject. Addressed to Minister Jewish illegal immigration. for Foreign Relations. 12th January 1948. 3479a 25019-2 (4

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go. 8.

12th January 1948

Monsieur le Ministre,

December 30th last, I have the honour, under instructions from His Lajesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to request that urgent steps may be taken for the withdrawal of Panamanian Registry from the s.s. "HIDHNA".

This vessel was originally bought by one Pandelis, a principal and notorious organiser of the traffic in illegally immigrating Jews and he is now behind the present owners. He controlled the s.s. "STUCCLUR" which reached Palestine with 1,450 illegal immigrants, and the "ACIA ANASTASIA" which sank on her way there. The "AMDINA" arrived at Las Palmas on January 5th in a leaking and unseaworthy state and it is believed that she is on her way to the Plack Jea. A prompt withdrawal of registration might prevent her passage through the Straits into the Black Jea an might assist in delaying her at Les Palmas. In any case, the size of this ship makes her particularly danger us now that the Cyprus Camps have had to receive 15,000 extra Jews from the "FAR YOUA" and the "FAR CASSOMIT".

I need not emphasize that if this ship is allowed to load Jews and sinks with them, there may be tragic loss of life. That would mean little or nothing to those who are profitably empaged in this revolting traffic, but world opinion would be profoundly shocked.

I swail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the expression of my highest consideration.

(Signed) JOHN D. GREENWAY.

His Excellency br. Mario de Diego, Minister for Moreign Relations, Ponama 1.1. •

6851

No. 24 (90/14/48)

E \_ 308

21 JAN 1953 J

HIS Majesty's Ambassador

at Rome

presents his compliments to Secretary of State, Foreign Office, and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy, Rome.

15th January, 48

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Note Verballe No. 22 to
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs.

13.1.48.

Subject.

Jewish illegal immigration.

**TO** 37

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90/14/48 N.V. No. 22 75

#### NOTE VERBALE

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in continuance of previous correspondence regarding the use of Italian ports and resources by ships engaged in transporting refugees illegally to Palestine and the abuses of Italian territory committed by the organisers of this traffic, has the honour to inform them that the two Italian ships "Maria Christina" and "Giovanni Maria", whose identity is already known to the Ministry, arrived in Palestinian waters at the end of December carrying respectively 882 and 688 illegal immigrants.

- The Ministry are already aware from previous correspondence with the Embassy of the serious aggravation which this traffic causes to the situation in Palestine. The Embassy have already been obliged, in their Note Verbale No. 325/294/47 of 3rd December, to express the dissatisfaction of His Majesty's Government that the "Giovanni Maria" should have been permitted to prepare for and to commence her recent voyage from an Italian port. While noting from the Ministry's Aide Memoire No. 11/40692/569 of 30th December that this ship has subsequently been subjected to a fine for transporting unauthorised passengers, the Embassy are obliged to renew their protest that sufficiently effective measures should not have been taken either to prevent this ship sailing from Italy or to restrict her movements, with the result that she succeeded in reaching Palestine with a large number of illegal immigrants.
- 3. As regards the "Maria Christina", the Embassy has furthermore been instructed to inform the Ministry that the illegal emigrants carried by this ship are now known to have embarked from Italy. It is understood for example that some of the Jews in question left the wicinity of Palese near Bari on 9th December, and on the following day embarked near Orbetello on the Tyrrhenian coast. The Embassy are at a loss to understand how a large party of refugees could in such a brief period have succeeded in leaving Palese, in travelling across the breadth of Italy and in embarking on a ship without the local Italian authorities becoming aware of the movement, and they have been instructed to express the serious concern of His Majesty's Government that this illegal embarkation should not have been prevented. They trust that the Italian Government will arrange for appropriate investigations to be made into the circumstances.
- 4. The Embassy have at the same time been instructed to draw the Italian Government's urgent attention to the presence in Italian ports of a number of suspect ships (whose names have already been communicated to the Ministry) and to express the hope of His Majesty's Government that all means possible will be used to control their activities.

Rome.
January 13th, 1948.

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1 RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

*No.***25** (90/19/48)

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77

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Rome

presents his compliments to Secretary of State, Foreign Office

and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

Rome.

21 JAN 1948

15th January, ....., 19348

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Aide Memoire to
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs, Rome.

14.1.48.

Subject.

Jewish illegal immigration.

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# AIDE MEMOIRE

There are two suspect ships of considerable size now in Genoa. These are:-

- (a) ATALENA, a Panamanian ship of 1820 tons, whose name was communicated by telephone to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 3rd January;
- (b) CYPRESS, a Panamanian ship of 650 tons, whose name was given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a letter to Signor Marieni No. 389/62/47 of the 11th December.

A further large-sized suspect ship, the MEDINA, of 5426 tons, flying the Panamanian flag, is expected to arrive in Genea on 15th or 16th January.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy have been instructed to point out the extreme seriousness of the situation which would develop if these three ships should succeed which would develop if these three ships should succeed in arriving in Palestine carrying illegal immigrants. They could transport some 14,000 passengers and there is only place left in the Cyprus camps for 3000 persons. Moreover the ATALENA is operated by the American League for a Free Palestine, an organisation said to be pledged to support Jewish terrorism.

The arrival of these ships with their complement of passengers in Palestine before the end of the Mandate might well provoke serious violence there, and their departure from an Italian port would consequently be a matter of gravest concern to His Majesty's Government and a threat to peace in the Middle East. In the circumstances His Majesty's Government most earnestly trusts that the Italian Government will help them by delaying departure of these ships untilafter the end of the Mandate, i.e. at the most for only about four months.

Rome. January 14th, 1948.

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presents his compliments t	sador at Athens O H.M.P.S. of S. for F. A.  nsmit to him the under-mentioned
British Embassy Athens	E G15
	9th January 1948
Reference to previous correspond Athens Note to Royal Affairs No. 539 (46 Description	1 Hellenic Ministry for Foreign /449/47) of 19th Dema lar 1847. ion of Enclosure.
Name and Date.	Subject.
Note to Royal Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affa Athens, of 9th January, 1948.	Black List of ships and individuals suspected of being involved in the illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine.

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ATHEMS.

0. 13 (78/3/43) CONFIDENTIAL

their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign affairs and, with reference to their Note No. 539 of 19th December, have the honour to communicate annexed to this Note two copies of addendum No. 1 to the Black List of ships and individuals suspected of being involved in the illegal immigration of Jews into Falestine.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Moyal Hellenic Ministry for Poreign offairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

9th January, 1948.

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268/4/48 HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Washington presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the undermentioned documents. British Embassy Washington, D. C. Reference to previous correspondence: Description of Enclosure. Name and Date. Subject. Copies of correspondence with Embassy of Panama 10 Nov., 19 Nov., 5 Dec., 7 Jan., 14 Jan. Ships flying Panamanian flag

6851

Bof: 268/4/48

14th January 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter E-S of the 7th Jamery concerning the S.S. COLONEL F.C. JOHNSON, in which you were good enough to inform us that instructions were sent by your Government to the Panemanian Consul at Morfelk, Virginia, on the 19th November 1947 to the effect that he should not accode to the request that this ship be accorded Panemanian registry. I shall at ence transmit the contents of your letter to my Government.

In behalf of my Government I should like to express my thanks for the action which both you and the Government of Fanama have taken in this case and for the offer of the Panamanian Government's fullest co-operation in the spirit of the announcement recently made by President Jinémes to the press on the subject of the transport of illegal imagrants to Palestine.

I evail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

INVERCHAPEL

Sener Don E.J. Chevalier, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Panama, Washington, D.G.

DA:TEB:JS

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Embassy of Panama Washington

E-8

7th January, 1948

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I have received a communication from the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning Your Excellency's letter of the 10th November 1947 about the activities of certain ships flying the Panamanian flag and the request for the grant of Panamanian registry to the S.S. COLONEL F.C. JOHNSON, at present in the port of Norfolk, Virginia, which, it is suspected, might be engaged in the illegal transport of Jewish immigrants.

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs has requested me to inform Your Excellency that, acting upon an express official recommendation, the Shipping Division of the Ministry of Finance gave definite instructions to the Panamanian Consul in Norfolk, Virginia, in a cable dated 19th November 1947, not to accede to the request for the registration of that ship.

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs also requested me to assure Your Excellency of the desire of the Government of Panama to offer to Your Excellency's Government the fullest co-operation in avoiding the recurrence of cases of this kind.

For Your Excellency's information and as a tangible proof of the foregoing, I have the honour to send you a cutting of an item which appeared a few days ago in the "Estrella de Panama", which explains the attitude which the Panama Government will adopt in cases where it is proved that vessels under the Panamanian flag are engaged in the illegal transport of persons to Palestine.

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

His Excellency Lord Inverchapel British Embassy Washington E.J. CHEVALIER Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Ref: Gl24/-/47

COPY

5th December 1947

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter E-931 of the 19th November about the vessels PAN YORK, PAN CRESCENT and COL. F.C. JOHNSON, in which you were good enough to inform me that you had referred my letter of the 10th November on this subject to the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that you were sure that the Government of Panama would take the necessary measures to prevent the transport of illegal immigrants in vessels flying the Panamanian flag.

In thanking you for your letter I should like to add that I know that my Government will greatly appreciate any measures which the Government of Panama may feel able to adopt in order to prevent the use of Panamanian registry by ships engaged in this traffic.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurance of my highest consideration.

INVERCHAPEL

Senor Don E.J. Chevalier, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Panama, Washington, D.C.

68514

TRANSLATION

Embassy of Panama Washington

E-931

19th November 1947

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's esteemed communique G124/47 of the 10th of this month by which you were so good as to inform this Embassy of the details of which Your Excellency had cognisance with regard to the illegal passenger traffic in which the merchant ship PAN YORK and her sister ship the PAN CRESCENT flying the Panamanian flag are engaged; as also the information which Your Excellency has received with regard to the request presented by Samuel Derecktor for placing the steamship COL. F.C. JOHNSON under the same flag; he being the proprietor of the above ship and proposing thereafter to pass it over to an individual named Ginsberg. In reply I have the honour to confirm to Your Excellency that I have informed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the esteemed communication to which I have referred and I am sure that my Government will take the necessary steps to prevent the continuation of this illegal traffic in passengers on the part of

As soon as I have received an answer I shall have the honour to communicate it to Your Excellency

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

E.J. CHEVALIER Charge d'Affaires a.i.

His Excellency
Lord Inverchapel
British Ambassador

371 6 851

ships flying the flag of the Republic of Panama.

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.
10th November 1947

Ref: G124/-/47

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to invite reference to correspondence between our two Missions on the subject of illegal immigration to Palestine, ending with my letter to Monsieur Chevalier of the 3rd April last.

My Government are very seriously concerned at the continued employment in this traffic of vessels flying the Panamanian flag. The activities of these vessels of Panamanian registry are a source of serious embarrassment to them at the present time. Two large cargo ships with a potential passenger capacity of close on 17,000 persons are now in the Roumanian port of Constanza. These vessels, which according to reliable information are destined for the illegal immigration traffic, are named PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT. Both are flying the Panamanian flag and are owned by the F and B Shipping Company, Panama, whose New York agent is Nathan Cohen of the Nautical Shipping and Servicing Company.

Reliable information has also been received that a further vessel, the COL. FREDERICK C. JOHNSON, now in Norfolk, Virginia, is destined for this traffic. This ship is owned by a certain Samuel Derecktor of New York, and it is understood that an application for the transfer of the COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON to Panamanian registry has been filed in his name. It has also recently been reported that a certain Ginsberg may be taking over the ownership of the vessel from Derecktor.

My Government are naturally most anxious both that the Panamanian registry of the PAN YORK and the PAN CRESCENT should be cancelled and that the transfer to Panamanian registry of the COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON should not be permitted. I feel sure that I may rely upon Your Excellency's cooperation to this end and I should be most grateful to learn of any action which you may find it possible to take. I am asking His Majesty's Consul General at New York to get into touch with the Panamanian Consul General there on this matter and I trust that he also will be ready to cooperate.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurance of my highest consideration.

INVERCHAPEL

His Excellency
Senor Dr. Don J.J. Vallarino,
The Ambassador of Panama,
Washington, D.C.

(Copy sent to Sir F. Evans, New York)

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